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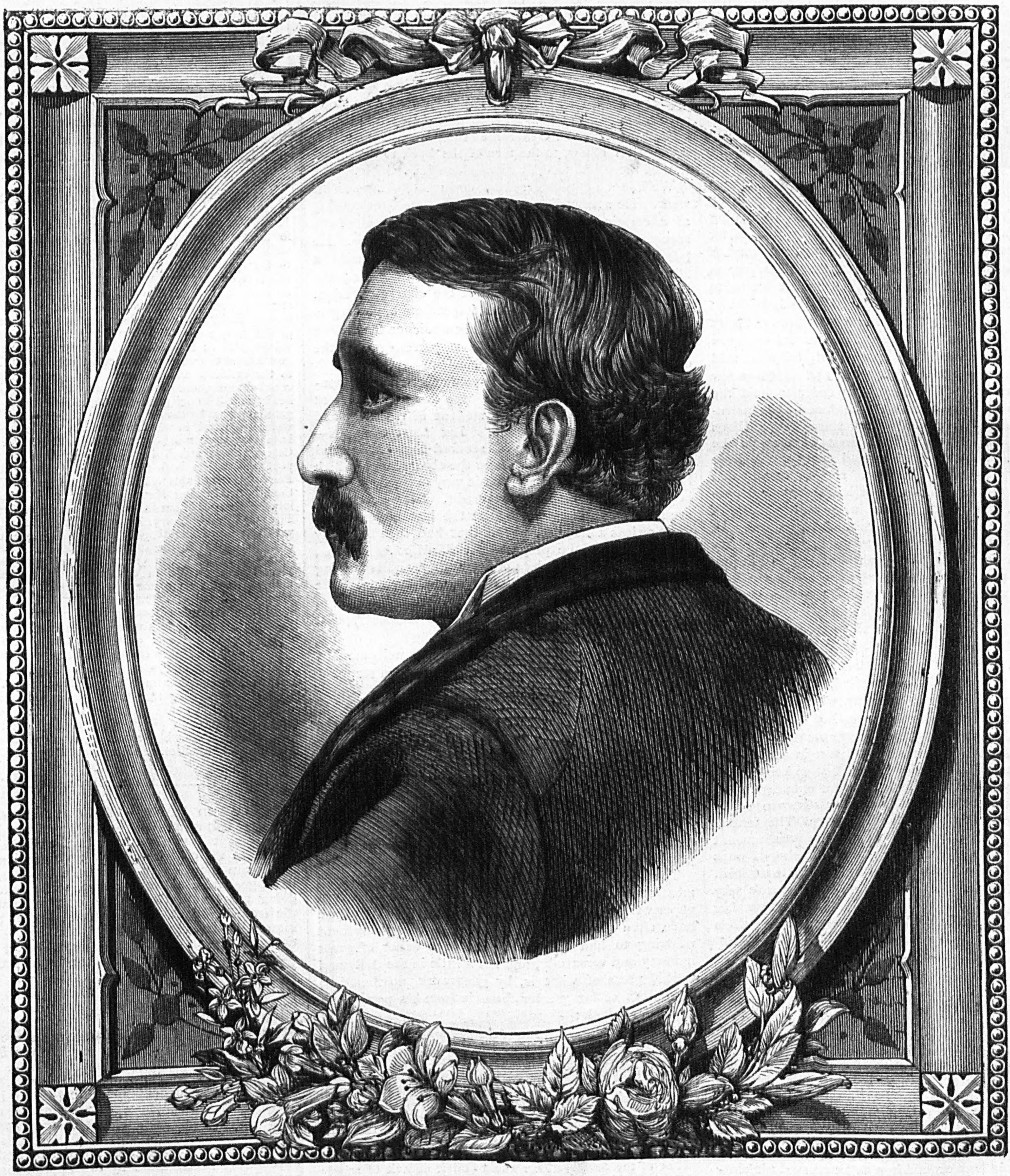


HENRY IRVING.

LARGE SHOPS AND SMALL.

A WEEK or two since, Earl Fortescue, discoursing upon things in general at a dinner in Devonshire, naturally gravitated towards the subject of education. Though wholly in favour of giving a generous schooling to the children of the nation of all classes, his lordship took the opportunity of uttering a few words of warning. He was anxious on one point. He hoped there would not be too many children wanting, as they left school, to get a living with pens behind their ears. He trusted that a national system of education would not lead to an increase in what he regarded as the already overburdened class of persons occupying a middle position between the producer and the consumer.

This, indeed, was the burden of his contention : that the great public have more servants than are needed. The aristocracy and the wealthy, he observed, were sometimes accused, and he acknowledged not without reason, of having a needless number of servants and retainers; but he thought the same complaint could be made with not less justice with regard to the general mass of the community. And the noble earl pointed to the superabundance of shopkeepers selling the same articles, the hawkers, the travelling dealers, the market keepers, the stall holders in the streets, and indeed the whole army of those who buy with one hand and sell with the other. Traders, he admitted, were most useful members of society; but there was no need for so many of them. Half a dozen shops in one street were devoted to the selling of precisely the same articles. This was a dissipation of energy and resources. It was a waste of time and a consequent loss to society. Too many people crowded into that line of life because it was somewhat more desirable than any occupation connected with production; and the consequence was that there was the less production, and commodities were dearer by reason of the large number of dealers there were to keep.

Is there a fallacy in his lordship's argument? We are inclined to believe there is. Not that we think, as many would suggest, that the labour market is really overstocked. There is never too much production going on, and if workpeople are out of employment it is for lack of a proper distribution of labourers, or for want of good management, enterprise, or capital. But, just as we believe the noble earl himself has been found to contend that it is not well that all the land should be cultivated on the large-farm system; so it does not work favourably if all the shopkeeping is carried on upon gigantic plans. It is desirable, no doubt, that we should have—as we have in our great towns and cities—a few very large retail establishments, in order to lead the market and to show what may be done by the instrumentality of great capital; but these large shops have their faults, and not the least of them is the fault of great waste of time and energy. A little actual observation in London shops, small and large, in any given department of business, would convince Earl Fortescue that there is no real economy of labour in these extensive businesses. A very strong staff of assistants is kept in order to be prepared for the busy hour and for the season of special pressure; and during the greater part of their time many of them are idle. Given twenty small-shop keepers and twenty assistants in a large establishment, and the small-shop keepers are the best employed. They actually get through more work, man for man.

The facts, indeed, speak for themselves. If the large-shop system were the most economical, the small tradesmen would not be able to compete with it in prices, and there would soon come an end of the little men. Fortunately, we think, it is not so; fortunately for that portion of the public who are served more in accordance with their particular needs by the small-shop keeper, and fortunately also for the little tradesman, opening up, as the system does, a variety of modes of existence in society to suit the variation of taste and disposition. That form of civilisation is calculated to dispense the greatest amount of content which affords the greater number of ways in which different sorts of energy can be exercised. The trading element in the English character is very strong; but it would be intolerable to a larger number of those whose bent is in that direction to compel them to become subordinate assistants in a "large concern."

MR. ODGER, in a letter, gives a graphic account of the treatment he met with at Reading. Three hundred opponents assembled on the railway platform and awaited his coming. "Three of them," he says, "with the butt-ends of their walking-sticks battered my hat flat down on my head; others who were near struck at me with their fists. The rest of them gorged their appetites by making the most hideous noises." The gallant 300 made a great and final attack. "One had me by the throat," says Mr. Odger, "another by the back of the neck; two big men rushed through the crowd and offered me their help, but no sooner had they got a firm hold of me than they tried to strangle me." Four policemén kept around him as he crossed the platform to get into the carriage; but hitting, kicking, and pulling continued until he managed to reach the break-van. He concludes:—"I have a bruised head, sore arms and legs, and some ragged clothes, but nothing serious."

OUR LONDON NOTE BOOK.

MR. IRVING.

WE are hopeful of the prospects of the English stage. There are actors, gradually gaining the favour of the public, who pursue their studies on legitimate principles. They do not follow a conventional standard. They do not try just to catch the public in their easiest and least critical mood, and to please them without awakening their intelligence. If the young players of our time, seeking to make a place for themselves on the boards, and hoping to form the rank and file of the English actors of a few years hence, will be true to themselves and study their art in the full faith that it is really an intellectual art, they will succeed, and there will be better days in store for the drama. What is wanted is the abandonment of the old unfortunate notion that acting is a trick or a series of tricks. What is wanted above all things is a perception on the part of the player that the thing he has to study before all else is not the stage, but human nature. Let him try first to fathom the secrets of the heart; and let him then seek to understand how all the shades of character, of temper, of disposition, of fancy, show themselves in a man's step, in the expression of his countenance, in his gait, his voice, and his every movement.

Mr. Henry Irving, whose portrait appears on the front page of this paper, is an actor who has chosen for himself, we think, the true line of genuine and legitimate success. He has no mannerism. He leaves Mr. Irving behind in the dressing-room, and steps upon the stage the character of the moment and nothing else. Grant him his conception, and you grant him the complete faithfulness of the presentation. He has quietly—long before he has learned his part, long before he appears at his first rehearsal—sculptured out, so to speak, the person whom he is to personate; and that is he on the stage, to the last line in the face, to the movement of an elbow, to the turn of the heel, to the inflection of the voice, to the articulation of a syllable.

We like the earnestness and conscientiousness of his work. He never trifles with his part. He does not flag at a certain point and walk through the rest of the scene. He has no confidences with the audience. He takes no liberties. When he works up towards a climax—when he arrives at his finest point in the piece—he does not shame the rest of the characterisation. It is all of a piece. He is consistent from beginning to end, and leaves on the mind of the audience the feeling that the actor has added a new personage to the dramatic gallery.

Mr. Irving has moved on towards success and popularity with steady, sure steps. He is at this moment one of the actors whom every student of the stage and every critic is bound to see. His latest triumphs—*Jingle* and *Mathias*—have secured him an assured place. The distinction between the characters in which he has made his greatest hits is very marked, and this is so much the more to his credit. His personations are so unique and complete that the last is sure to be more or less a surprise. Who that had seen him only as *Jingle* would be prepared for *Mathias?* This is, indeed, a very masterpiece of fine acting, and is making the fortune of the management of the Lyceum. We have, however, so recently criticised the performance of this last novelty under Mr. Bateman's lesseeship, that we need not enter here upon its merits.

London playgoers have good reason to welcome Mr. Irving as an acquisition upon the metropolitan stage.

GOSSIP OF LONDON JOURNALISM.

The reading public know little or nothing of the sources of their daily and weekly supply of journalistic literature. In a few instances, under peculiarly favourable circumstances, they may, perhaps, detect a well-known hand in a leading article, a letter, a critique, or a special report; but they read and enjoy a great deal of excellent writing whereof the author's name would be quite unfamiliar to them if it were mentioned in their presence.

The London correspondent of a Nottingham journal mentions the indisposition of a gentleman whose newspaper writing, always fresh, vigorous, and incisive, we have often quoted in these columns, though without referring to him by name. He is a writer of great industry and versatility, and not a little in the daily and weekly press of what is, by guesswork, attributed to journalists of far greater fame is from his pen. This is the paragraph :—

> Mr. Barnett, the able editor of the *Sunday Times*, is seriously ill—so ill, in fact, as to give his numerous friends grave cause for apprehension. He has been more or less ailing for a considerable time, but during the last few days his indisposition has taken a serious turn. Mr. Barnett is a power on the metropolitan press. Trained in the pulpit for a Dissenting body, he introduced on the paper with which he has been so long and creditably connected a breadth of ideas in the treatment of social and political topics which before his advent was comparatively unknown in newspaper literature. The proprietor of the *Sunday Times* would find it difficult to supply his place. Mr. Barnett was one of the candidates for the post of editor of the *Morning Advertiser*, and was just beaten in the contest by Colonel Richards.

We trust the correspondent whom we quote will soon have better news to relate of Mr. Barnett.

PHONOGRAPHY DEVELOPED.

Writers of phonographic shorthand, amateur and professional, are so numerous that we shall be certain to interest a good many readers by referring to a "Proposal for a Civil Service Shorthand," by Mr. Rundell, of the Civil Service. The scheme is an extension and elaboration of phonography. Mr. Pitman gives three "positions" for words and consonants, by way of indicating vowels that are not written. Mr. Rundell proposes nine "positions." He gives two ruled lines, about each of which—above, on, and under—there are three positions, making six; and the remaining three are above, below, and on the central space between the lines. The nine positions entirely supersede the necessity for disconnected vowels, and render the writing very legible. Apropos of the scheme, we quote from the *Eastern Morning News* London letter the following paragraph, not omitting the bit of City antiquarianism :—

> Many persons to whom the ancient and curious St. John's Gate, at Clerkenwell, is not unknown, may be unaware that immediately beneath the portal is a window on which is conspicuously inscribed a notice that it belongs to the "oldest Tavern in all Christendom." In the large room connected with this tavern, directly over the archway, Garrick made his first public appearance in London, in the farce of "The Mock Doctor," and in this room, alternating with the meetings of the Urban Club, the "Shorthand Writers' Association" of London holds periodic meetings for professional improvement and the interchange of experiences. On Wednesday evening last an opportunity was afforded to Mr. Rundell of explaining and illustrating the effect of certain rather extensive alterations which he has proposed in the mode of writing Mr. Pitman's phonography and of submitting them to the criticism of some of the most skilled writers of that and other systems of shorthand.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

We make little preface, comment or apology when we have a bit of fresh London sketching to quote in this column. Whoever knows London, little or much, is sure to read with interest a paragraph like the following, culled from the London letter of the *Western Daily Mercury*:—

> London is suffering from a tramway mania. A line has been opened from the bottom of Hampstead-road to the top of Kentish-town-road, and passengers are carried all that distance for the small charge of twopence. To those who appreciate the walks around Highgate and Hornsey the tramway just opened to the north-western suburbs will be a great advantage, as they will now be able to go with ease, comfort, and at small expense to some of the most delightful retreats in Middlesex. A stranger would be reluctant to believe that such picturesque scenery could be found within so short a distance of the centre of this busy metropolis. I walk from Crouch End to Hornsey village, and as I go along the winding rural road I wonder how Nature can display her beauties with such profusion so near to the artificial works of man. I visit the old church with its ivy-clad tower, and the silent churchyard where the poet Rogers lies buried. Through gently sloping fields I turn up towards Highgate, and pass by the narrowest of paths through the thickest of woods—a wood in which the babes of the story-book might have met their much-lamented fate. I am not surprised that Coleridge was attached to Highgate. It is just the place for a poet who desires both solitude and London within easy reach. Passing through this old-fashioned village I find at the top of the hill, overlooking Kentish Town, an old-fashioned way-side inn. No way-side inn in Middlesex is more famous than the Fox and Crown, for it is by a peculiar circumstance associated with Royalty. The Royal arms are displayed over the door, and underneath is the following inscription :—"This coat of arms was granted from Queen Victoria for services rendered to Her Majesty while in danger travelling down this hill." Oddly enough we are not told who rendered the services; we are not informed who received the grant. On inquiry I was told it was the former landlord who had arrested the mad flight of runaway horses while dashing down the hill with the Royal carriage and its Royal contents. The chair in which Her Majesty sat when taken out of the carriage fainting with fright is still shown at the Fox and Crown. The landlord afterwards opened a beer-house in the neighbourhood of Buckingham Palace, and believing that the Royal arms allowed him to do what he liked, he sold spirits without a license. He escaped punishment through pleading ignorance. He really believed that the Royal arms had a sort of charm which would protect him from all penalties. The accident happened on the 6th of July, 1837.

CHINA AND JAPAN.—*The Overland China Mail* gives the following news :—"In Japan very little change is apparent beyond the gradual assimilation of the people to the civilisation of Western nations. Foreign shoes are now ordered for the soldiers, and hand carriages are coming into use, while there is a talk of doing away with the prohibition at present existing of the export of rice. Unrestricted right to travel in the interior is expected to be granted next year, by which time it is hoped the obstructive feudal power of opposing daimios will be well in check by the Government. Street railways are likewise spoken of. The young Mikado, hitherto regarded as something sacred, is blossoming into a sort of semi-European human ruler of his people, and is no longer a mythical being. Railways and other Western improvements are doing their work in Japan, and the romance of the feudal times is giving place to more prosaic instincts. As famine and the squeezes of corrupt officials are in China the certain forerunners of brigandage and insurrection, grave fears are felt by all at the probable effect of the floods up North. Thousands of natives have been left houseless; tens and hundreds of thousands will be left without food if the waters do not abate; and the lavish expenditure necessitated by the approaching Imperial nuptials, together with the rapacity of dishonest money-clutching officials, fill all (native and foreign) with the gravest fears. The foreign residents of Tientsin have therefore memorialised their Consuls that the protection necessary may be provided them before the river and the flooded plains be frozen up."

COUNTRY LIFE.

History in Fac-simile.

A writer in the *Birmingham Gazette*, having occasion to give an account of an interesting collection of high-class photographs exhibiting in the Midland capital, starts a very suggestive idea in his introductory paragraph, which runs thus :—

> Few people have yet realised the importance of the art of photography as a means of recording the current history of the world; for there has never been such a record of passing events as is now being registered by the aid of photography. The most trifling matters are finding a place in history, and though scattered and of infinitesimal value singly, the history of the time is being registered more faithfully than ever yet was done by the most accurate historian. In every country the work is being carried on, and most wonderful indeed would be the testimony of the whole if all could be brought together. Any collection being fairly a comprehensive representation of the manners, life, and characteristics of the various nations of the world would be of immense value; but the difficulties of making such a collection are great, for not only is it a slow and costly process, but there is the melancholy fact that, though a photograph may be ever so beautiful, it is but a transitory thing, and the chemicals of which it is composed are destined in a very short space of time to resolve themselves into air, and leave no trace behind them.

This is a view of the remote uses of sun printing which ought to be in some way turned to account. Nothing more often strikes the student of history than the disheartening fact that he really knows very little about the characters and scenes with which he is endeavouring to make himself acquainted. No doubt all the annals of the world are more or less deceptive and faulty. We cannot place implicit reliance upon any testimony, and when we have formed an estimate of a great personage, or endeavoured to pass judgment upon actions and events, a doubt always remains whether we should not have arrived at a very different conclusion if we had lived in those times and had had opportunities of observing for ourselves those things of which we read the scanty, imperfect, and often distorted record. And this feeling does not desert us when we examine portraits of great characters and pictures of scenes which have wholly passed away. If we have no particular faith, as accurate reflections of the events, in the battle pieces in oil, illustrative of the martial career of Napoleon I., which hang on the walls of the galleries of Versailles, and if we do not trust very far the warlike friezes in sculptured relief which adorn some of the ruins of the architecture of old Rome; we are not much more disposed to pin our faith to portraits, though they may be the work of the most eminent artists. Who is there, for example, can really pass judgment on the beauty of Mary Queen of Scots? Nowhere is there a portrait to be found which enables the spectators to account for the high estimation in which her personal appearance was held by her contemporaries; and unless we pick out a particular painting and confine ourselves to that, we shall have the most confused and contradictory notion of her style and the character of her beauty. Take a contemporary example in the case of Queen Elizabeth. We none of us know at all how she looked. The collection of national portraits exhibited some time ago at the South Kensington Museum might have helped us to satisfy ourselves that we knew what manner of woman she was to look at—if there had been only one portrait, and that an obviously well executed one. But there were several most valuable likenesses of Her Majesty, and by the time one had examined all of them the mental vision would get itself into a chaotic state.

Now photographs are, undoubtedly, often very faulty; but they have not the worst fault of works of art—they do not merge the particular into the general. They must be very bad indeed not to afford some distinct notion of the person, and if we had a photograph of Mary Queen of Scots—even though it were as atrocious a specimen of sun-painting as are, apparently, the portraits which have been the subject of examination and cross-examination in the Tichborne trial, that miserable presentment of the woman would have, in some respects, a greater value than the finest oil portrait extant.

Brief as has been the history of photography, there are in existence thousands of good photographic portraits of persons of note who are no longer living, and pictures of scenes and places which no longer exist; and these works will fade away by and by and come to nought. There are, however, methods by which they can be reproduced in a practically permanent form. Before these accurate presentments are lost, it would be well if we had some national institution whose business it was to take and to preserve a durable copy of every photograph which can be found possessing a real historic or biographic interest.

Old Staffordshire.

There is room for much elucidation of the history of this country by means of a laborious examination of local collections of historic materials. Most of our great writers in this department of literature have been in the habit of confining themselves mainly to State and national collections of archives; but there is not an ancient town or city in the country that does not possess its stores of almost unexplored riches relating to particular periods and calculated to throw light upon events which are not so clear as they might be. Instead of being more laborious than their predecessors in searching in out-of-the-way places for fresh elucidations of history, we believe the general tendency among authors in our day is to take less trouble than those who have gone before them, and to content themselves with a bright and clever method of dealing with the few materials to hand. This is the natural result of the too rapid accumulation of new books. In the days when it was thought necessary to chain a work to the bookshelves on account of its great value it was natural that authors should consider it a matter of the gravest moment what they worked into their books and what they left out of them; but in these times, when nine-tenths of all our writings are tossed on one side soon after publication, and thought nothing more of, there is a great temptation to take short cuts and to reach the result as easily as possible.

The *Staffordshire Advertiser*, in laying before its readers a summary of the contents of the famous Salt Library, conveys some valuable hints to modern authors who know how to appreciate the advantages of grazing in new pastures. This is what the summary says of the MSS. :—

> It yet remains to treat of the collection of Manuscripts, the value and completeness of which, as a source of county history, absolutely beggars description. A very meagre account is all that can be attempted here. It contains upwards of 2,000 original Deeds (dating from the twelfth to the eighteenth century, and almost without exception relating to Staffordshire). There is besides an original charter of King Athelstan, subscribed by the King himself and seventeen of his prelates and nobles. It is unnecessary to comment on the rarity of such documents. Heraldic and Genealogical MSS. of course occupy a large space, and comprise pedigrees, more or less elaborate, of several hundred families; extensive collections of coats of arms, beautifully blazoned; heraldic notebooks, and other miscellaneous memoranda. These again, it must be remembered, relate principally to this county.

The autograph letters too, appear to be of great interest and value :—

> Separately placed in the catalogue, as a kind of appendix to the MSS., is a most valuable collection of autograph letters, comprising in the first place upwards of two thousand eight hundred Staffordshire letters, illustrating the history of at least 200 families in the county. Next we have a number of Royal autographs, letters and other papers, including those of Edward IV., Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., Queen Mary, James I., Charles I. (three letters, two of them addressed to Prince Rupert on Staffordshire matters), Henrietta Maria, Charles II., William III., Mary II., Anne, George I., II., III., Queen Caroline, and others. 3. A collection of letters of the time of the Civil Wars, written by officers in the Royal Army, and chiefly addressed to Prince Rupert; also a few letters of Parliamentary Commanders. Nearly all of these relate to the movements of armies and other affairs in the county of Stafford, and include letters from Prince Rupert, Prince Maurice, the Governors of Dudley, Lichfield, and Bridgnorth, Lord Capel, Sir Gilbert Gerard, Col. Legge, Lord Loughborough, the Earl of Northampton, who was killed at the battle of Hopton Heath; the Earl of Essex, Col. Mytton, the Parliamentary Governor of Stafford, and others. Also, one of Mrs. Jane Lane to the Queen, and signatures of several of the Penderells and their family. These letters are all of the greatest interest and value to the historian of the Civil Wars. 4. Letters of well-known Staffordshire personages, which would be of great importance in compiling biographies of the writers: including Garrick, Dr. Johnson, Miss Seward, Stebbing Shaw, Lord Gower (four letters respecting the Rebellion of 1745 as it concerned Staffordshire), Bishops Hough, Chandler, and Smallbrook, signatures and letters of several of the Lords Stafford, and very many others of the Staffordshire nobility.

We do not imagine that the British Museum is exhausted of its wealth of material; but that institution, extensive as it is, must by and by run dry in some of its departments; for great is the army of authors and compilers who depend almost entirely upon its resources. We advise some of these to turn their attention to provincial collections, and we commend to their notice the catalogue of the Salt library.

The Cup that Cheers.

An "Eye Witness," much scandalised, furnishes the editor of the *Ashton Reporter* with a lively account of a tea meeting recently held in the Ashton Town Hall. It appears that an association of cotton operatives are in the habit of celebrating their anniversary with "tea and something in it," the social meal being followed by a dance. The "Eye Witness" seems to have had his suspicions as to the decorum of the proceedings, and he obtained an order of admission, and became a spectator of a good deal that shocked him. We quote a passage or two from his letter :—

> Directly after I arrived in the large room, the doors were thrown open, and the folks began to flock in in large numbers, in the most disorderly manner, some of them in a drunken state, having cigars or pipes in their mouths. Immediately on getting seated at the tables, and before tea was served, they commenced to devour, like a lot of half-famished individuals, the provisions that were set before them. On the tea urns being brought in there was the utmost confusion, each one clamouring to be served. After the first round, a familiar perfume pervaded the room, similar to that at a "tea and rum baggin," and on looking about I observed several young men coming from the direction of the ante-room (in which a refreshment bar was located) with small jugs filled with rum and other intoxicants, the same being poured into the cups of the young women present to such an extent that in a very short time after it was drunk there was a perfect Babel of tongues.

Without pretending to commend such conduct, we confess to a sneaking partiality for the "jolly dogs" who brought "small jugs filled with rum and other intoxicants, the same being poured into the cups of the young women present," but we deplore the inadvertence of the young women in drinking off the tea just as if it had not been tampered with. The author of the "Ingoldsby Legends," seeking to provide a fitting punishment for the villain who was the instigator of the desertion of the Babes in the Wood, declares that remorse overtook him and that "his daughters drank rum in their tea." Other calamities, the reader of the famous nursery rhyme will remember, followed; for "his son, who had gone for a sailor, went down in a steamer at sea, and his wife ran away with a tailor." The swains at Ashton did not appear to have the terror of these dispensations before their eyes, and the ladies, we fear, had never read Ingoldsby. Dreadful consequences followed the consumption of the spirituous tea :—

> Not content merely with making a great noise, those who had imbibed commenced to knock the provisions about, and in several places the floor was strewn with good and wholesome bread and butter, currant bread and cake, and also broken pots and spoons. In addition to the above, one tipsy gentleman (?) ran against a tea urn, which he knocked over on to those who sat close by, the liquid also swimming the floor in the vicinity of the downfall. There were two sittings down to tea, and after the first lot had had their fill—some not forgetting to lay a little by in their pockets—they retired to the neighbouring publics and to the bar in the anteroom. Similar proceedings were enacted at the tables by the second lot who sat down to tea, and after they had finished the young men began to pull down the tables, in some instances before they were properly cleared, and in so doing a second tea urn was upset causing a similar mess to the first one. Such, sir, were the proceedings at tea.

We will not pursue the harrowing history further, except to quote the "Eye Witness's" moral reflections, which ran thus :—

> And all this in the nineteenth century, and in a civilised country! What are we coming to? Do these things tend to raise the standard of morality in the town? I think not.

We agree with our "Eye Witness," and we trust that when morning reflection came, and with it this description of the proceedings in the local journal, the members of the cotton association resolved either to drink their tea without rum in future or to be very sparing as to the quantity.

Physiology and Phrenology.

Phrenology we take to be a system that runs ahead of science, and hence it is that it suffers sometimes such severe reprehension at the hands of the physiologists. Some day, in all probability, students of the structure and composition of the brain will arrive at conclusions very closely corresponding with those of the ablest phrenologists; but until then the man who reads character from the outer conformation of the skull is like the intelligent observer of the heavens before there was a science of astronomy. When men knew nothing of the enormous size and distance of the sun, and had no notion of the comparative magnitude or the natural history of the moon, they knew something of the phenomena of the apparent coming and going of those luminaries, and so far as their knowledge went they were right in their facts and calculations. To that extent we have no doubt the phrenologist is correct in his diagnoses of character from the conformation of the cranium.

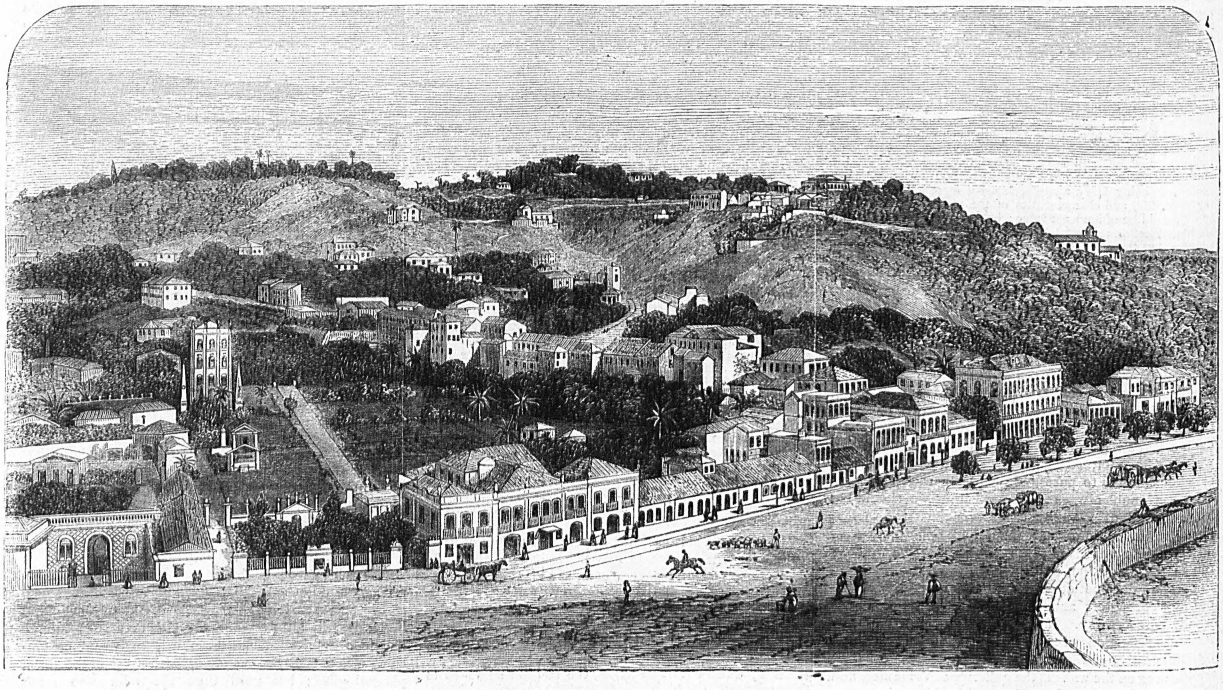
At a recent meeting of the Portsea Island Society for the Culture of Science and Literature, Mr. Netherclift, assistant-surgeon to the convict prison at Portsea, read a paper in which he made some apt remarks on this difficult question. His subject was "Criminal Responsibility and the Plea of Insanity," and he narrated many very interesting facts, the results of his experience among the convicts. We quote, however, only his references to phrenology :—

> Referring to phrenology, he said it had disappointed their hopes, though they had to thank Gall for much of their present knowledge of the anatomy of the brain. Gall's great error (and it was still the bane of his system) was the profession of a perfect physiology, when he only presented its elements; and this he espoused because he considered his phrenology to be equally complete. When physiology was perfect, phrenology would become so, and not before; but the physiology of the brain was now in its infancy. The treating of the relation of the external configuration of the skull with the individual character had certainly a number of coincidences in its favour; but it remained an empirical art, wanting in every respect the exactness of a science. A rude scheme must not arrogate to itself the characters of a correct science. The coincidences already discovered might serve as guides to future inquiry, and when the assistance of physiology was coveted, instead of avoided, the aspirations of cranioscopy might be realised. One fact was nearly universally acknowledged—that capacity of head and intellect power went together; and to this capacity they might safely add shape.

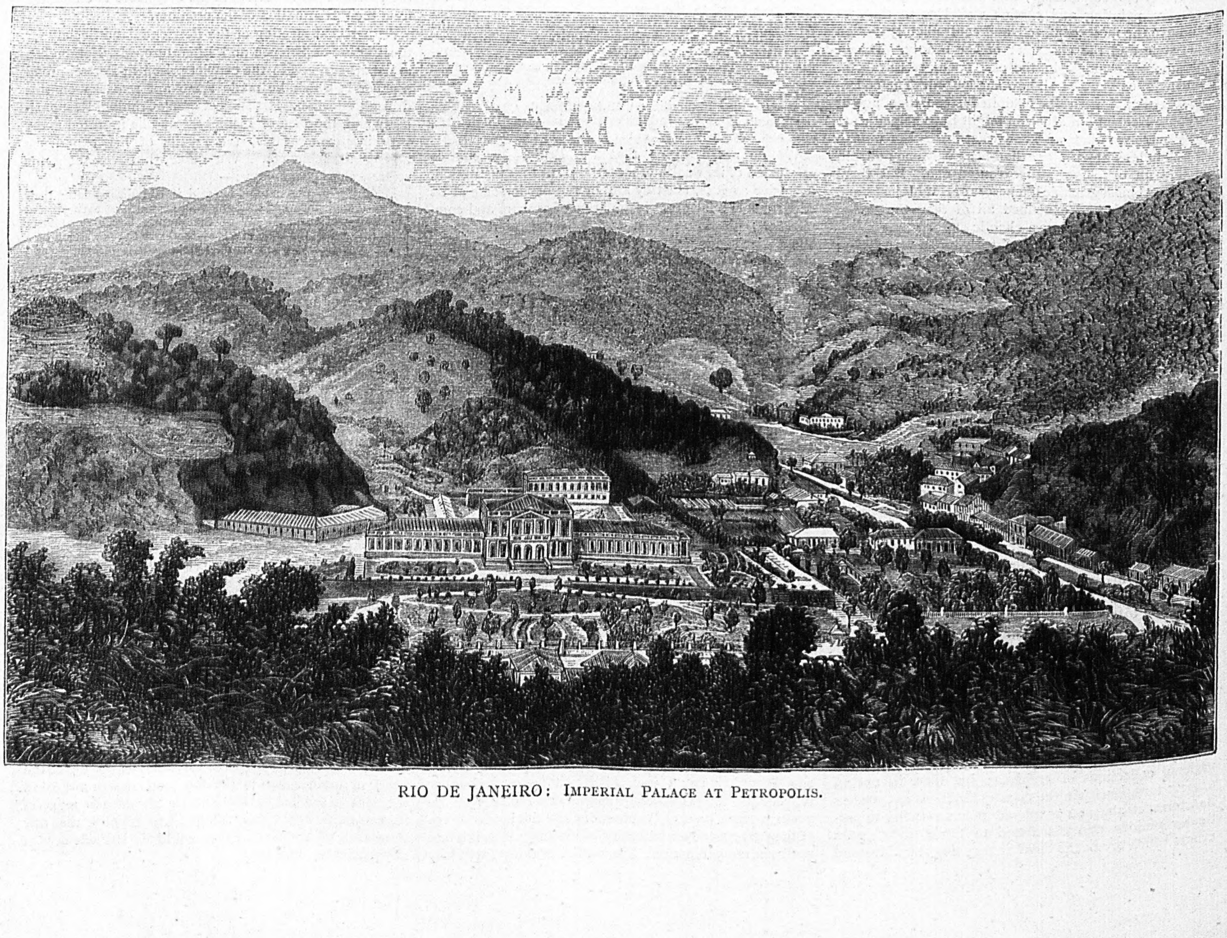
We must not assume that phrenology has nothing to say for itself in answer to Mr. Netherclift, but we think he has pretty correctly marked its position in relation to physiology. We cannot, however, go the same length with Dr. Wilson, who took part in the discussion, and observed with respect to phrenology :—

> He thought little could be said about the relation of the brain substance to the intellect. No doubt there was a tangible relation between the size of the brain and the extent of the intellect, but, beyond this, it was almost impossible to speak with any degree of certainty. He conceived it to be illogical to suppose that any fixed area of brain substance could be the sole seat of any particular intellect.

There really can hardly be a doubt that certain faculties are localised in the brain, for there never was known a man of great intelligence with a low and receding forehead; and we cannot imagine on what logical ground Dr. Wilson can believe that a particular faculty would have its seat in this man on the top of the head, in another man in the forehead, and in a third in the back of the head; and that is all we can make of his proposition that it is "illogical to suppose that any fixed area of brain substance could be the sole seat of any particular intellect."



RIO DE JANEIRO: The City of Catete.

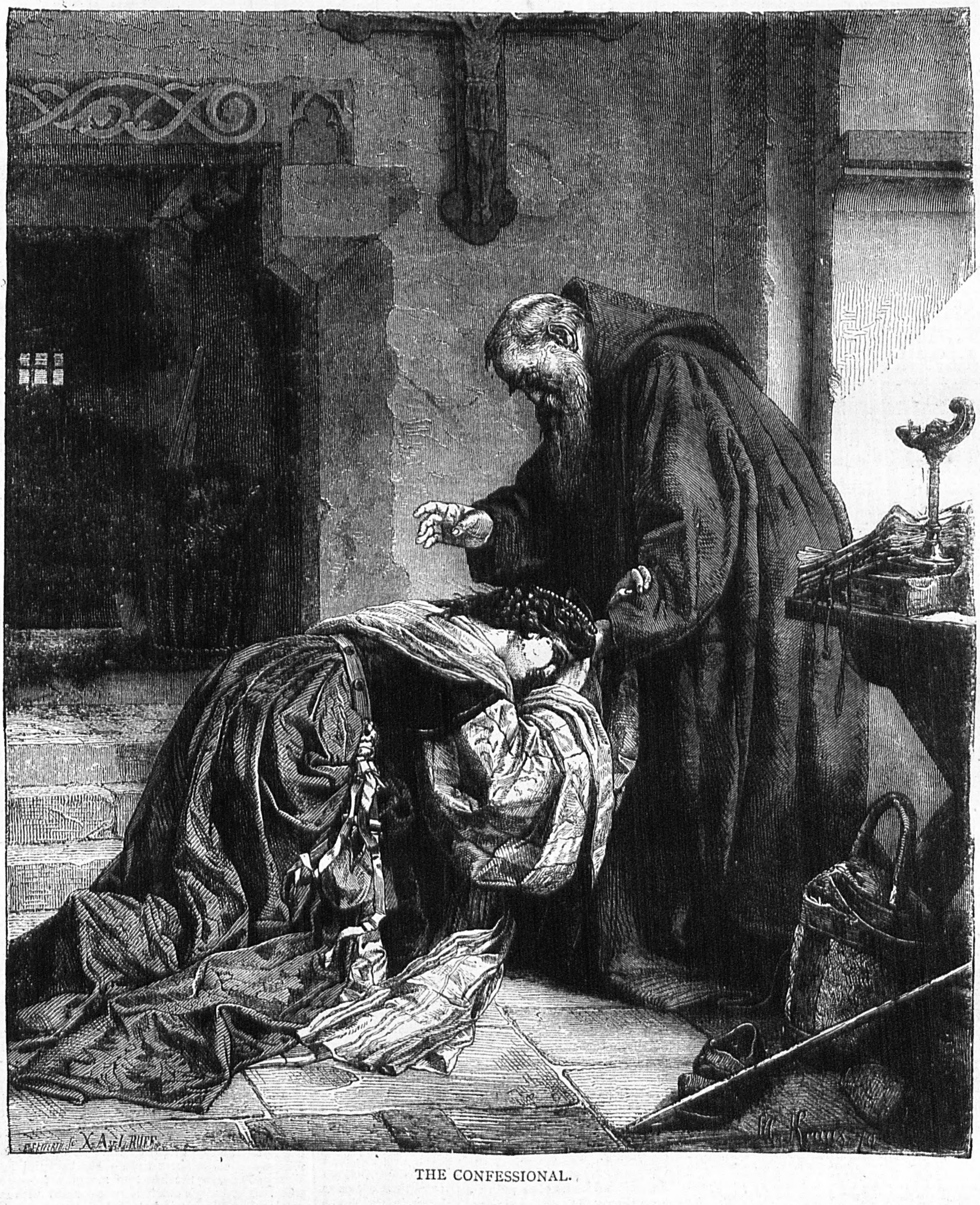


RIO DE JANEIRO: Imperial Palace at Petropolis.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMOND FIELDS.

THE following letter, dated October, and just received from the diggings, is entertaining, and contains valuable information :—

"Dear ——, As I perceive from the last *European Mail* that you have given publicity to the former note I sent you (which I never contemplated), I must request you to do the same by this, in order that I may not for a moment be thought willing to encourage emigration to the diamond fields of South Africa. That wonderful finds are daily being made and handsome fortunes accumulated is undoubtedly true, but that there are numbers of sick, helpless, and penniless—men living either from hand to mouth, or on the charity of some hospitable digger—is also unfortunately true. I should have died myself like a dog in a ditch when I first came up and caught the fever that ravages the camps in the summer, but for the marvellous kindness shown to me, and the tending bestowed on me by a storekeeper, who recognised in me a brother Irishman. This was the sole bond between us, and he could not have treated me better than had I been the legitimate heir to Brian Boru. No man is fitted for this colony who cannot readily yield to circumstances. Diamond digging, as I have said before, is a bigger lottery than even horse-racing. Here, if you get early intelligence of a new 'rush,' and can get there and mark out 'claims' round the favourite spot, you are pretty sure to find something worth having. If you do not hear in time and get to the spot late, you may as well try to whistle against thunder as hope to find a paying 'claim.' In this race for wealth, it is 'every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost.' Next, as to the life a man without capital must be prepared to endure, I can speak from my own experience. I have seen men lately holding commissions in Her Majesty's forces begging from door to door, from tent to tent, for work and food. I have known a university man who has fulfilled the duties of barman, auctioneer, baker, butcher, general agent, editor, and law reporter, just to keep body and soul together. Such cases are truly pitiable, as in general they have neither the capacity nor the energy to dig, nor the knowledge requisite to earn their living otherwise. Life under canvas sounds very romantic in theory, but is remarkably prosaic in fact. The burning heat of the sun makes the tent a hot-house by 7.30 a.m., and the chill night winds and drenching thunder-storms make your bed anything but one of repose by night. Moreover, the 'pestilence that walketh by night,' the liveliest fleas, and the most gigantic 'Norfolk Howards,' revel over the sleeper; and this charming clime rejoices in many other vermin and reptiles, '*quod nunc prescribere longum est.*' Again, to cook your own dinner at an English pic-nic is very good fun; but to have to cook tough mutton or beef fresh killed, to chop your own wood for the fire, wash up the plates and dishes, boil the kettle, bake the damper, and brew the tea off and on for nine months, makes you think the joke is being carried a little too far. Of course, as a rule, you have a Kaffir for this work: but needs must when the devil drives, and if you are hard up you must do it yourself. With capital a man can make himself extremely comfortable on the fields, and as 'money makes money' he is pretty sure to make his trip pay, but without capital a man should have been bred to some trade, and be ready and willing to turn his hand to anything that offers—swallowing down all his pride, and simply remembering that he came out to gain money. '*Si possit recte, sed rem qucumque modo rem.*' Now for private affairs. I have started digging again. There is a strange fascination in the work, like hazard-playing; but the stakes are big—Health *versus* Diamonds; for this is summer coming on, and it feels as if we had but a slip of brown paper between us and Hades. I have not done anything more than put gravel on the sorting-table and knock it off again with words the reverse of blessing, though fellows have found all round me. When my luck does come I am sure I must have a regular howler of a diamond to make up for all my bad luck. Since February, when I commenced working, I have only knocked out a half-carat stone, which I sold for 25s., and was glad to get the coin, being at that time fearfully hard up. Two Scotchmen, who came out in the same ship with me, have just started home with £3,000 a piece—not a bad nine months' luck. I wish to goodness I had half, and I would be in England by Christmas for a month or two, and then have another shy.



THE CONFESSIONAL.

"I enclose an extract from the *Kaffrarian Watchman*, which will to a certain degree show you that our life is not all roses."

WE read in the *Shanghai Courier* of the 25th October :—"It is reported that on her last down trip the S. S. N. Co.'s steamer Shanse received at Cheefoo, and signed for two boxes of gold bullion, the value of which was stated at something over Tls. 15,000. On the steamer's arrival here these two boxes were missing, and no clue could be found to the time or manner of their abstraction. We understand that $1,000 reward has been offered for the apprehension of the thief."

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Doors open at 6.30. [486

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CHARLES HENGLER, Proprietor. [496

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"Mdlle. Heilbron, whose precocious ability as a pianist is well known, gave an evening concert on Thursday last in St. George's Hall, and gratified a large audience by the intelligence with which, for one so young, she rendered various pieces of classical and popular music."—*Daily Telegraph, Nov.* 20, 1871.

"The evening concert given by this clever young pianiste last week in St. George's Hall enabled her still more favourably to impress her listeners with the charm of her talents, and the astonishing command she possesses over the mechanical difficulties of pianoforte playing. Uniting with a pleasing touch and brilliant finger genuine expression and pleasing sentiment, Mdlle. Heilbron by her performance was never more successful in exciting interest and eliciting commendation, whilst her *tours de force* surprised no less than delighted the numerous auditors she attracted round her. It is not alone in the modern school of light music that Mdlle. Heilbron's talents display themselves. With the aspiration of a true *artiste* she aims at interpreting the poetical works of Beethoven and Mendelssohn and the composers of a classical order, and succeeds in a manner which shows that experience will soon ripen her into a faithful exponent of their thoughts and fancies. The Kreutzer sonata was a bold essay for so young a pianiste, but Mdlle. Heilbron's playing was throughout characterised by good phrasing, neat execution, and musicianlike feeling. The young *artiste* was warmly and deservedly applauded. For her first performance she selected Liszt's 'Valse de Faust,' and executed it with great brilliancy and power."—*Standard, Nov.* 20, 1871.

"MISS HEILBRON'S MORNING CONCERT.—Miss Sophia Flora Heilbron, a most prepossessing and talented young lady, who at thirteen years of age has a perfect command of the piano and plays like an *artiste* of mature years, gave a morning concert on Wednesday at St. George's Hall, which was fully and fashionably attended. Miss Heilbron has succeeded in gaining the patronage of some of the most distinguished members of the aristocracy. She played first Dussek's Sonata in B flat, with Mr. Chaudeau Lane; Liszt's famous fantasia from 'Tannhauser;' and an *impromptu* of her own composition for the first time in public. In the second part Miss Heilbron took a higher stand, and with equal success, playing Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, with Mr. Lane, in admirable style, winding up with Fumagalli's fantasia upon 'Puritani.' All of these pieces showed the talent of the clever young lady in the most favourable light, and won for her extraordinary applause. She has evidently the ability to become one of the leading pianists of the day."—*Era, July* 15*th*, 1871.

"That musical 'little wonder,' Sophia Flora Heilbron, ætat nine, has just closed her Paris career for the present. The young pianist has played before the Emperor of Russia, the King and Prince of Prussia, the King of Portugal, and other grandees, with great success. But that which is a greater compliment to the juvenile artist is, that last week she had the honour of playing before Signor Rossini, at his house at Passy. The maestro was kind enough to the child, and complimented her very much on her talent."—*Daily Telegraph, August* 8*th*, 1867. [539

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⁂ ADVERTISEMENTS cannot be received after 12 o'clock on Wednesdays.

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THE Illustrated NEWSPAPER

LONDON, DECEMBER 16, 1871.

AT the time of writing this note the Prince of WALES is hanging 'twixt heaven and earth. The whole nation has manifested most anxious sorrow for the suffering Prince and the deepest sympathy for the Princess, the QUEEN, and the rest of the Royal Family. Every edition of the newspapers has been bought up, and there has been more anxiety for news than during England's wars. All but the most urgent business has been at a standstill, and this great public calamity has cast a gloom over everything. The country is in a state of sorrow, with Christmas almost at the doorstep. On Sunday prayers were offered in churches and chapels, and there seems to have been a divine answer, for while we write the Prince still lives, though on Saturday we were told on all hands that on the morrow he would be past praying for. We can only hope, with an additional consolation, that as we write there is some reason for hoping, the latest bulletin recording a change for the better.

THERE is a strike among the telegraph clerks, which may end in serious damage to the business of the country. The nation has already suffered annoyance and inconvenience from this movement, originating, like many other late grievances, in the mismanagement of the present Administration. Since the telegraphs have been under the control of Government there have been many blunders, and we have now another difficulty that will seriously affect all classes of men, unless speedily and satisfactorily settled. The authorities are at fault. They have broken faith with their clerks, and now charge them with insubordination because they have dared to form an association for self-protection. The wires are worked in connection with the Post-office, and the telegraph clerks, believing their labours to be as hard and their responsibilities as great as those of the ordinary Post-office clerks, seek to be put on something like an equality with them. As we have said, the telegraph system is a department of the Post-office, so that the telegraph clerk is in reality a Post-office clerk, and to be fit for his post requires as much intelligence and education as the other servants. They wish to be placed on the same principle of promotion and remuneration as the rest of the department; and when we consider their claims we think they have justice and reason on their side. When we remember, too, that with the transfer of the telegraphs to Government it was promised that these demands should be conceded, there is no ground on which to condemn the clerks for the course they have adopted. A classification, according to their age and other circumstances, which should regulate their remuneration, was promised. The promise patiently waited for has not been fulfilled, and it is idle to deny that the authorities have broken faith with their servants, and are in the wrong. It was understood, moreover, that the assumption by the State of the telegraphic management would be followed by a general advance in pay to the *employés*. This to some extent has been redeemed, and only to some extent; for what has been given by one hand has been taken away by another. The clerk received a small increase in salary, and was then called upon to work on Sunday without extra remuneration, so that he could scarcely consider himself in a better position to refuse their demands, the justice of which has been admitted. An association was formed, but not until the clerks had been assured by competent legal authority that the combination did not imply disrespect to law or anything approaching insubordination. A different view was taken of the matter, however, by Mr. SCUDAMORE, who issued a manifesto declaring that all the *employés* who had joined the association, and who did not choose to sign an open withdrawal of their accusations against the Government, and a public disavowal of any further connection with the movement itself, would be immediately dismissed the service. Up to the time of our going to press, there had been no arrangement come to. Mr. SCUDAMORE was peremptory, and the clerks were peremptory also, the result being that many of our large commercial towns were in a state of disorganisation. Whatever may be the merits of the association, Government is clearly at fault. It has broken faith with the clerks, and there is no excuse for them. They are also at fault on another point, which has called forth the censure of the daily press—delaying press intelligence announcing the movement. The *Daily News* says a telegram forwarded by its correspondent at Manchester would have appeared a day earlier had not its delivery been intentionally delayed by order of the telegraphic authorities in London. "Their excuse for thus acting is the exigency of the public service, and a desire not to aid in circulating particulars which may not be altogether accurate. The defence is as untenable as the original act. When the Government was entrusted with the control of the telegraphs, it was stated by the opponents of the transfer that opportunities would be created for the exercise of an official censorship over news. Judging from this case, these vaticinations appear to have been too well-founded. It is one against which, in the interests alike of the public, the press, and of the telegraphic authorities themselves, we most emphatically protest."

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OUR readers will find some remarks concerning Mr. HENRY IRVING under the heading of "Our London Note Book" in another part of the paper.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

We have before given sketches of this beautiful and romantic land, and this week add two more to the list. Catete is a well built suburb of fine houses in the midst of grand scenery. In passing through Catete we have on one hand the bay of the Gloria, and on all sides rich foliage and magnificent trees.—The Imperial Palace of Petropolis is in the heart of mountains covered with trees. The Palace outside is surrounded with splendid gardens, and inside is embellished with costly pictures and many rarities of art.

THE CONFESSIONAL

is another study of an old theme. It is a delicate and grave subject; and the artist has treated it delicately and with reverence. Our engraving of

AN IDEAL HEAD

displays a rich appreciation of the sublimity of art. It is an imaginative picture by Adalbert Begas, a German artist who has won renown for his treatment of fancy subjects.

OPORTO.

We give two views of Oporto, the upper city and the lower city. Oporto, pleasantly situated on the River Douro, is the centre of the commerce of Portugal, It was founded by the Alani, and called Castrum Novum, A.D. *circa* 350. It was taken by the Goths, 540, and by the Moors, 716; they were defeated by Alfonso I., and the city captured, 820; again taken by the Moors, 870; retaken by the knights of Gascony, 1092; noted for a species of wine strengthened with brandy, drank out of the country almost exclusively by the English, a duty being paid of a third less upon it than on other wines, by a treaty called the *Methuen treaty*, Dec. 27, 1703; a company monopolising the trade was formed here, 1753, which regulated the exports, so as to keep up prices; dissolved in 1834 by Don Pedro; but re-established, 1841. Insurrection 1756; the English factory erected, 1790; the town taken by Marshal Soult, with great carnage, April 29, 1809; Soult was surprised here by Wellington, and defeated, May 12, 1809; the town, naturally very strong, was besieged by the partisans of Don Miguel, but they were obliged to retire, Sept. 19, 1832, 16,000 persons killed; an insurrection, in which the insurgents entered Oporto, 1847; a Spanish force entered Oporto on behalf of the Queen, and the insurgents capitulated, June, 1847; 28,000 pipes of port wine were imported into England in 1854.

DALLIANCE.

The study is full of the spirit of the age of chivalry. Minstrels were great men in those days, and had peculiar privileges, sharing the fare of princes and enjoying more freedom than any other class of men. Here we have a minstrel the companion of a lord, and here we have a lord capable of flirting to any extent. The fair cup-bearer, though not extremely bashful, has enough modesty for the occasion, and no doubt will be match enough for the lord and the minstrel.

FOOD AND COOKS.

This is an illustration of the proverb that "Heaven has sent us food and the devil cooks." This Falstaffian party, these four knights of good living, have called at their inn with the idea of enjoying their ease and a good dinner. The dinner is evidently a failure. The joints are tough, and resist the edge of sharp knives. Two of the hungry party have taken off their coats, to give their arms greater freedom; but they are still unsuccessful. Having failed to cut up the dinner, they are cutting up the cook, who has been summoned by vehement calls.

NAPLES AND SICILY.

THE Naples correspondent of the *Times* writes under date of December 4:—"Some weeks have passed since I alluded to strange reports in circulation regarding the administration of the Quæstor of Palermo. The Attorney-General had drawn up an order for his arrest, and a *cause célèbre* was expected, when we were suddenly informed that the Cameradi Consiglio had suspended all proceedings, on the ground that the evidence was insufficient. There was some mystery about the affair, and people were surprised to hear that General Medici and Signor Albanese, the quæstor, were to return. More prudent counsels, however, have prevailed. The latter has been set aside, while the general returned to Palermo last week and received an ovation. Indeed, there can be no doubt that under his strong government Sicily has enjoyed an amount of tranquillity to which it had long been a stranger, and that great confidence is placed in him by all the friends of order. The Attorney-General, Signor Tajani, who was one of the most important personages in a drama which created great sensation throughout Italy, sent in his resignation to the Government, which was at first refused, but finally accepted, not, however, without another post of importance being offered to him. Naples, which was abandoned by all who could get off to Rome last week, is now resuming its usual appearance, and many persons who had assembled to witness the opening of Parliament are running down here. A general opinion prevails that Naples will profit as much, or more, by recent changes than even Rome itself. Who is there that will not come down as opportunity presents itself to inhale a breath of fresh air and enjoy the sunshine on the shores of our bay? With increased facilities of communication I do not see why Naples should not, in no distant future, be to Rome what Brighton is to London, the residence of many whose duties lie in the capital. Even at present it would be no great undertaking for a man to visit his family once or twice a week at the cost of seven or eight hours in a railway carriage; and if this interval of time could be reduced, as it is conjectured it can be, the difficulty would be greatly diminished. The Neapolitans are quite alive to their interests, and a project for a short route to Rome has this week been laid before the Giunta of the Municipality, and approved. Subject to the assent of the Council, it recommends that a subsidy of 200,000f. be given for ten years to the future company when the line is completed and in full exercise according to the conditions of the programme. The route will run in a direct line to Rome, passing Aversa, Mondragone, Formia, Terracina, and Velletri. It will traverse the ancient Via Appia, and be eighty-six kilometres shorter than the actual line. With ordinary speed, it is said that the journey will be accomplished in three hours and a half, and if the project is carried out—and it is by no means a new one—Naples will become the second capital of Italy. There is a report that the Calabrian-Sicilian railways are to be ceded to the South Italian Company, so that there is the same disposition to amalgamate among us as exists in England. A portion of the line between Reggio and Roccella has suffered lately from violent hurricanes such as none of the inhabitants of that district remember to have witnessed. The *Aquila Latina* reports the destruction of eighteen iron and eight stone bridges; a great portion of the rails had been carried off, and the road for a considerable extent had been covered with earth. The damage is calculated at not less than two millions of francs. Private property also had been greatly damaged, and many houses in Ardore and Siderno, and in Bovalino fourteen had been wrecked. There was a loss, too, of human life, but to what extent is not stated. The disaster seems to have been occasioned by the simultaneous violence of the torrents and of the sea, which swept over the road. General Menabrea is here, commissioned, as it is hoped, to make over to the Municipality the Castel Nuovo, which, as it at present stands, is not only useless, but a nuisance. Of course, I speak only of the outworks, as the castle itself is one of those historical monuments of which Naples is proud. The Grand Duke Michael of Russia and his family are also here, and with this abominable weather must have received a bad impression of *bella Napoli*. The probability is that we are passing through the worst part of the winter, and that December will smile upon us. With the thermometer at 56, no Russian, however, need complain, though some disappointment may be excused as he looks out on the hoary head of Vesuvius and the girdle of snow which encircles us."

BOYS FOR THE NAVY.

MORE than twenty years ago a limited number of boys, first under the name of apprentices who entered for seven years, and afterwards of boys called novices, who became continuous service men, were in some measure trained for the Royal Navy; and these, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, appear on the whole to have conducted themselves well, many (if not most) of the warrant officers now serving having belonged to one or other of these classes. But the system of entering and training boy to supply all the seamen required in the navy is of not more than eight years' standing. It is early, therefore, to judge of its benefit to the service generally; but the marked improvement in the character of the seas men of the Royal Navy is attributed chiefly to this system for training. An account of the recruiting of boys in the year 1870 was laid before Parliament some months since; a fuller note has now been issued, prepared by Staff Surgeon Seaton Wade. It appears that five ships are employed in training boys, the whole giving accommodation for 3,000; and 2,884 were entered for the service in 1870. The western counties of England contribute largely to the supply, and boys from these counties generally turn out well; they enter the navy from choice, and with some knowledge of the kind of life they will lead. London appears to be able to furnish an unlimited supply, but the number medically rejected is large. The boys received from Ireland are chiefly from the north. The Scotch boys come from various parts of Scotland; they are for the most part intelligent, well-behaved lads, but in this last particular the boys belonging to Glasgow are reported to be exceptions. The social condition of the boys recruited is low. Farm boys, though loutish at first, improve wonderfully, and turn out good seamen. Errand boys are, of course, town boys; those from the seaports are of good stamp, anxious to get into the service. Tradesmen's boys appear to have a great desire for sea life; as a rule, they are healthy lads, and readily adapt themselves to ship life. Factory boys are about the least desirable of the boys who present themselves. The rule is that the recruits must be able to read and write; but practically, if they can stumble through a few words and write their names, or a short sentence, and are intelligent lads, they are allowed to pass. They must also be physically fit. Of 1,977 who came under Mr. Wade's notice last year, eighty-five were rejected under the educational rule, and 384 others on physical examination, the majority for inferior girth of chest or constitutional weakness. The average daily number of sick in the year was 1·98 per cent. Several causes affect the health of the boys. Many of the weaker lads break down under a sudden change from a life of freedom to one of restraint and strict discipline. Those who come from the close rooms of factories and warehouses to a ship where they are unavoidably exposed to cold and draughts, are liable to attacks of pneumonia and acute rheumatism. The change of diet or the unwonted quantity of food disturbs the digestive organs of many at first. Then, again, they are of the age very liable to eruptive fevers. There is a liability also to accidents in learning the various drills. Ninety-four boys were invalided in 1870; greater care, however, is now bestowed on the examination of recruits, and it is expected that the invaliding will be greatly diminished. There were twenty deaths, all from acute diseases, such as might attack any similar number of persons. The total "waste" in the year by death, invaliding, discharges, desertions, &c., amounted to 6·44 per cent. on the average number born—viz., 2,950. Boys are not now entered under fifteen; they remain one year under training, and then pass an examination, are rated "first-class boys," and are either sent to a gunnery-ship or direct to sea.

THE HIGHWAY ROBBERS OF CALIFORNIA.

MATTERS have gone prosperously with the select fraternity of highway robbers of late, says the *San Francisco Bulletin* of November 16. They have been hunted, snared, trapped, and circumvented at nearly every point where their operations have been particularly active. Thus the Cloverdale robbers were arrested in the midst of a successful campaign, and just when they were enlarging their operations. They had only killed one man under circumstances of peculiar atrocity. But they had riddled several more. One of them said he would kill a suckling child if it were necessary to carry out a scheme of robbery successfully. As robbers, they had commenced a brilliant career, and in six months more they might have succeeded in slaughtering a dozen or more substantial citizens of Sonoma County, to say nothing of the unweaned babies which might have been brushed out of the way, and the coin which they might have captured. There were too many of them to keep a secret. Besides, they drank whisky, became communicative, took in Curtis, a deputy sheriff, and by that little indiscretion were out and injured. Then, Steve Venard was around—the man who became famous by picking off three robbers by as many shots from a Henry rifle in Nevada County a few years ago. Ever since that time Venard has just been where the robbers didn't want him to go. Moreover, he has got a "testimonial" rifle, and every time he draws bead on a stage robber, his trial and conviction happen very near together. That rifle pronounces one of the most telling obituaries ever pronounced over a defunct robber. Venard is now in the employ of Wells, Fargo, and Co., and evidently has plenty of effective work to do. There is the Gilroy and Visalia stage robbery which has just occurred, and which will next receive attention. There the rascals carried off only the beggarly amount of $500, and didn't murder anybody on that occasion. But if there had been ten times that amount, they would only have been too glad to carry it off, and to murder three or four citizens who might have protested. Sheriff Morse and Steve Venard have kept the robbers and horse-thieves hazing now for some time. Morse knows the haunts of the brigands and desperadoes—the greasers who will murder a man for $10, who steal horses and fat cattle, running them off to the fastnesses of the mountains. Most of these scamps have not courage to rob a stage, but they fight desperately at close quarters. If Morse and Venard are going to look into the doings of the robbers, and cut throats in this state, then it is certain that this fraternity will have some lively times, and will have to pass the regular dividends. Indeed, there has not been a notable robbery a long time where the robbers got off safely and enjoyed their plunder. The railroad robbers of Nevada broke out of State Prison, but they were hunted down, shot, or dragged back to their old quarters, only to be tried for additional offences, including the murder of one or more of the prison-guards.

WINTER COSTUMES.

IN consequence of the severity of the weather, high or square bodies remain in favour for dinner parties or *soirées* longer than was predicted at the commencement of the winter. The bodices made *en cœur* are neither so pretty nor becoming. One of the most charming dinner toilets we have seen lately consisted of a train skirt of rich blue poult de soie, with four flounces of muslin, edged with lace closely plaited; a muslin body and tunic with the same trimming, and decorated with pale blush roses. The headdress was a wreath of blush roses, mounted with white lace, and long black velvet ends falling over the chignon. The new winter dresses made of embroidered Indian shawls are very charming when made in one single shade, such as maroon embroidered with maroon silk, light blue with blue silk, &c. Cloth costumes are very fashionable. The cloth used for polonaises, called incroyables, somewhat in the directoire style, is that called *printemps*, a peculiar shade of grey. The polonaise opens in front so as to show the petticoat, which is made en tablier. Caps are very much worn even by young ladies in Paris, and are very fantastic in form, the most approved being hood-shaped, made of fine muslin delicately embroidered with rich Valenciennes lace. There is a new material called "Sicilienne," a texture between China crepe and French poplin, which is becoming very fashionable.—*John Bull*, "*Chit Chat.*"

THE BLIND SLEEPER.

LET her sleep on:
Her heart is weary of the dark;
Let her sleep on:
Who knows? In dream-land she may see
Bright scenes, that in her waking flee;
So let her be.

Let her sleep on:
Her lips, so patient, part in smiles!
Let her sleep on:
Who knows? She dreams perchance of sight;
Shall we wake her to life's night?
No, let her be.

Let in the air,
And place these roses at her side;
The od'rous air
Will fan her cheek, till in her dream
She scents rose-gardens, it may seem;
So let her dream.

And let her hear
A lulling music floating by,
To please her ear;
Haply she loved the tender strain,
And lives some happy hours again;
Let her sleep on,

And let her dream
Some pitying angel wafts aloof
Her hopeless pain.
Her sightless eyes are dry of tears,
She feels no more the cross she bears:
Oh, blessed dream!

I dare not stay;
A coward at her side I stand,
And dare not stay
Lest I, who view the patient face
Illumined by this hour of grace,
See its despair.

THE sum of £10,000 has been offered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the vestry-hall, the almshouses, and the now disused burial-ground of St. Clement Danes, Strand, which are required for the site of the new Law Courts. The offer of the Government has been formally accepted at a vestry meeting. The rector appealed to the meeting to devote some of the surplus funds to the erection of suitable parish schools.

"The Congregationalist" is the title of a new magazine, edited by Mr. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, the first number of which is just published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

"After thoroughly testing it, I believe your Vegetable Pain Killer to be the best medicine for diarrhœa I have ever known. It gives speedy and permanent relief without any shock or causing constipation. It is a most useful and valuable family medicine. "E. T. BARRETT.

"*Surrey Chambers, Strand, July*, 1869.

506] "To Perry Davis & Son, London."

THE WOMEN'S DRESS GUILD.

"A Clergyman's Wife" writes to the *Rock* on this subject and supplies the following information :—

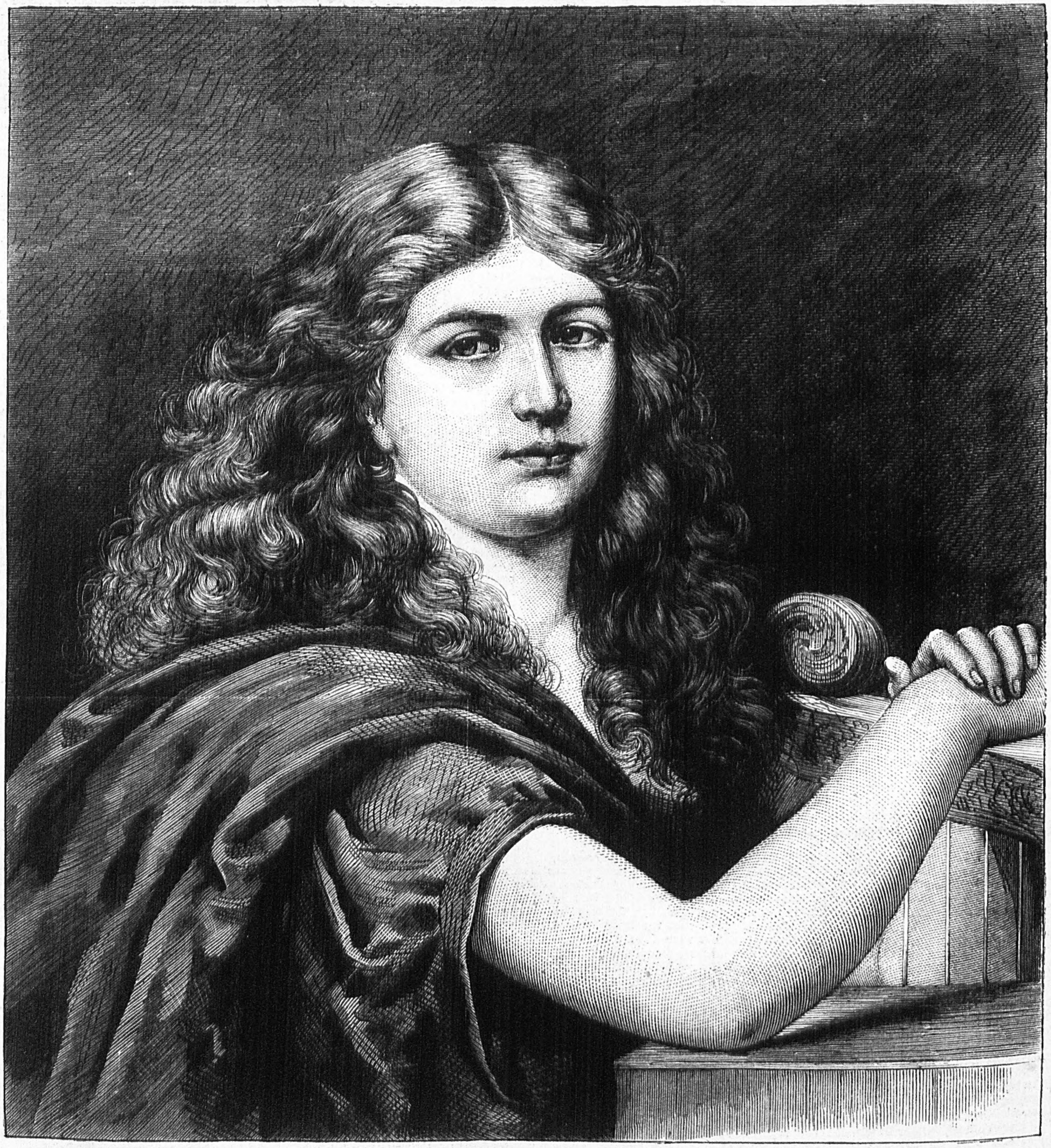
At a meeting of ladies, on the 18th of November, it was agreed—1. That the present style of women's dress is contrary in many respects to good taste, honesty, propriety. 2. That the passion for dress is a frequent cause for sin, leading the lower classes to theft, the tradesmen to dishonest practices, and the upper classes into debt. 3. That many of the popular fashions are not only unbecoming, but actually injurious to health. 4. That a society shall be formed, which has for its object to deal with the subject of women's dress as far as possible, and that it shall instill the principles of beauty, propriety (or suitableness), and moderation by example of the members, as well as by every other means in its power. 5. That this society be called "The Women's Dress Guild." 6. That the society shall bear in mind that this question affects all classes, and, therefore, the rules must be simple and defined as far as possible, and such as every right-thinking woman can keep strictly, and without sacrificing her own "unobtrusiveness." 7. That there shall be nothing overstrained or exaggerated. Too much conformity with fashion must be avoided on the one hand, gloom, ugliness, falsity, and immodesty equally on the other.

The rules which were suggested were as follows :—

1. Not to make purchases unless they can be paid for at the time, or when the account shall be sent in. 2. Never to buy anything simply because it is cheap. 3. To dress in a becoming manner befitting our station or occupation in life. 4. The personal taste of heads of families must (within the limits of these rules) be considered, but nothing be made a plea for welcome extravagance. 5. To use nothing "false" for *mere* purpose of ornament, or because it is the fashion—false jewellery, false hair, &c. 6. To avoid all exaggerations belonging to the fashions of the day, or anything which might attract improper attention. 7. To avoid all unseemly exposure of the person in *any way*, however much it may be encouraged by the popular fashion at the moment. 8. That neatness and cleanliness be most scrupulously attended to, and that neither time (in frequent changes, &c.), money, nor dress itself, shall be needlessly wasted.

Here the matter rests at present. The society has not been formed ; there seems to be no one willing to come forward as lady president—no one prepared to enforce the above rules should a guild **even** be formed.

The *Official Correspondence* of Vienna declares the reports as to the postponement of the International Exhibition of 1873 to be unfounded.

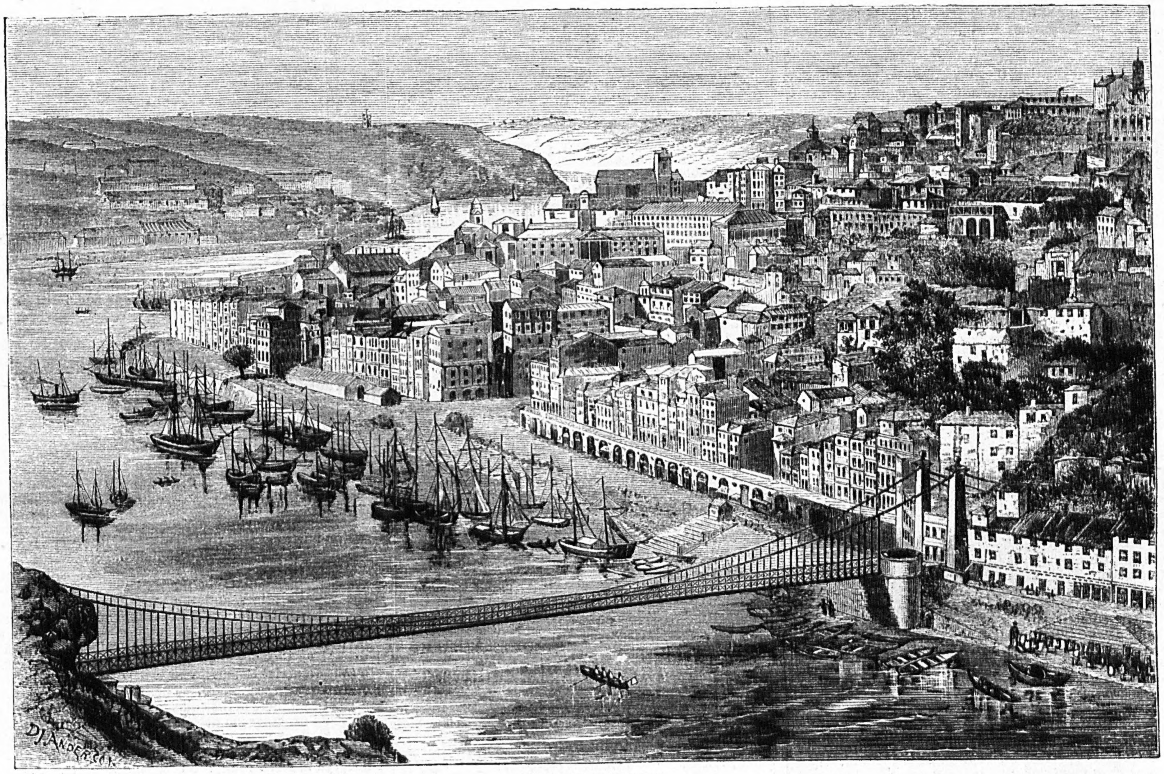


AN IDEAL HEAD.—From a Picture by Adalbert Begas.

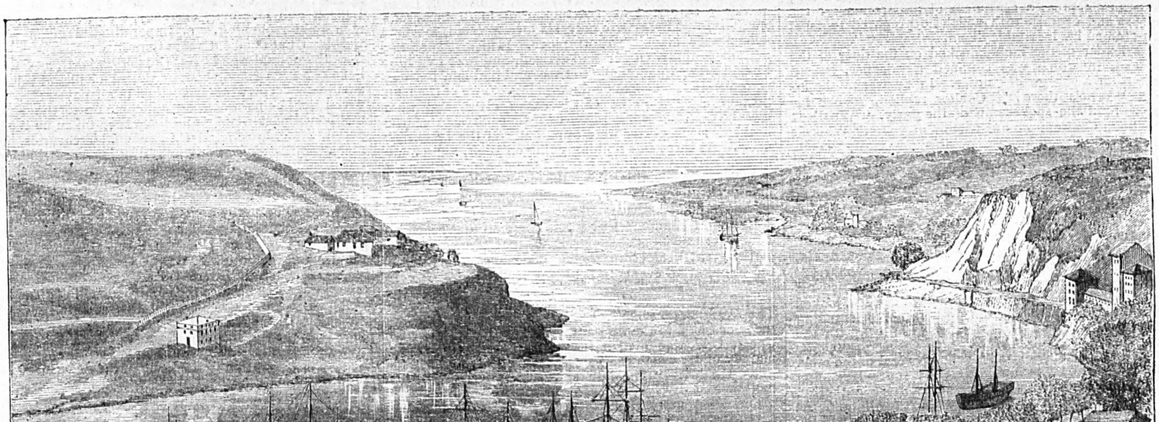
EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. Daniel Walker, Assistant-Inspector of Factories, states in his report this year that education is not so general in Scotland as is commonly supposed. He was informed recently by the commander of a company in a regiment of Scotch Militia, raised chiefly from the operative class, that he found, on settling the accounts at the end of the month's training, that out of eighty-two rank and file forty-six signed with marks in receipt for their pay, and about half of the remainder could evidently manage very little more than their name. Nearly all these men were Scotchmen, mainly artisans and mechanics in ironworks, with a proportion of miners and weavers, not of the very lowest stratum, but capable of earning good wages and a comfortable livelihood. Mr. Walker, in contrast to this, points to a paragraph in a report on technical education in Germany, presented to Parliament in 1868, mentioning that the colonel of a regiment in one of the minor States of Germany, having ascertained that out of a contingent of 800 men sent to him, four were found who could not read, the fact appeared so extraordinary that an inquiry was held in order to ascertain the cause. Dr. Blair Cunynghame, certifying surgeon, Edinburgh, states in a letter to the assistant-inspector this year on the state of education of young persons who come under the Factory Acts in that city, that there has been some improvement in the last two years ; that whereas an examination of 61 young persons in 1869 showed that only 17, or about 1 in 3½, could read and write, an examination of 100 young persons in 1871 showed that 49, or about one-half, could do so. Of the 61 in 1869, 9 others could read only, 18 could read fairly and write a little, and 17 could do neither ; of the 100 in 1871, there were (as just stated) 49 who could read and write, 26 who could only read, 8 who could read fairly and write a little, and 27 who could do neither. Mr. Walker thinks that in the strictly rural districts where the parish schools are still in force it is probable that the agricultural labourers in Scotland are better educated than the same class in England ; but that any person desirous of ascertaining where education is making the most rapid progress in this country must not come to Scotland, in which, especially in the towns, it has fallen off, but must go to Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, where, thanks to the half-time system, he believes it is more in the ascendant than in any other part of the United Kingdom.

The navigation of the Baltic is becoming more and more impeded. A telegram from Copenhagen says the ice in the harbour is thickening, and that the lightship in the Kattegat has left her station.


D.J. ANDERSON

CITY OF OPORTO.



CITY OF OPORTO.

STRANGE SCENE IN A PRISON.

THE *Cincinnati Gazette* of the 21st ult. records the following extraordinary story:—

A despatch from Brookville, Ind., published in yesterday's *Gazette*, announced that an attempt was made, on Saturday night last, to lynch M'Donald Cheek, now confined in the gaol at that place for the murder of his father-in-law, Thomas Harrison, about a year ago. From parties residing in Brookville, who were cognisant of the facts at the time they occurred, we have obtained the following particulars, which bear the impress of truth:—About half-past twelve o'clock last Sunday morning, a mob, composed of some seventy-five or eighty residents of Aurora and Manchester, entered Brookville, and proceeded to the gaol for the purpose of hanging M'Donald Cheek. They had come in waggons, in two bodies, from different directions, and, by preconcerted arrangement, met at the outskirts of the village, leaving their waggons about a mile out of town, in the timber on the west fork of the Whitewater. The persons composing the party were clad in great coats, reaching to the knee, and long capes. They were all masked, and seemed to be under the command of a chief, whose orders were carried out so far as the unforeseen difficulties in the way of their self-imposed mission permitted. On their way to the gaol they were encountered by several citizens, who were peremptorily ordered into their houses, under penalty of death. To one who met them a short distance from the prison, and demurred to their stern order, they said, "Go back into your house, if you don't want to get shot." And to another who questioned them in regard to their errand, "We don't want to hurt anybody here, but we are going to hang Cheek."

Arriving at the gaol, sledge-hammers and crowbars were produced, and the work of breaking down the outer doors commenced. These were three in number, constructed of iron, and withstood the united efforts of the mob for some twenty minutes before an entrance was forced. As the last door fell the party formed in military order, and before entering, indulged in a little formality, which, under the circumstances, seems slightly superfluous. The leader, standing at the entrance, repeated the words: "One, two, three, in goes he," and stepped inside, followed by his companions, each one as he entered repeating the cabalistic words, which, in view of the unexpected termination of the attempt, when it became necessary to reverse the movement and hurriedly execute "out goes he," imparts a ludicrous tinge to what was intended to be a tragic retribution.

A long hall runs through the gaol, upon each side of which are located the cells. Cheek occupied the third one from the outer door on the right-hand side. The cell doors were open, as is the custom, in order to give the prisoners opportunities for exercise in the hall. With the first blow upon the solid outer doors, Cheek roused from his slumber, and knew intuitively that the hour for which he had long looked had come. Alone, in the darkness of his cell, knowing that there was but little probability of the arrival of aid, he made preparation for defence, determined at least to sell his life as dearly as he could. Wrenching a post from the low bedstead, from which he had just risen, he took his station near the door, and awaited the coming struggle. In spite of the awful crime that brought him to a murderer's cell, one cannot repress a sentiment of admiration for the coolness and courage with which he prepared to meet what seemed his inevitable doom.

The leader of the mob knocked on the door of the first cell, in which was confined a prisoner, named Coulter, on a charge of murder. In answer to the inquiry, "Who's there?" Coulter replied, giving his name. Said the spokesman of the party, "We don't want you, Coulter; we are friends of yours. Where's Cheek?" Coulter, to draw them off the scent if possible, replied, "Cheek's upstairs, I expect." This answer did not seem to satisfy them. After a word or two among themselves, they proceeded direct to Cheek's cell, knocked at the door, which was about half opened, and inquired, "Who's there?" Cheek replied "Harry"—the name of a fellow-prisoner. "Come out and show yourself." He remained motionless. They asked again, "Who's in here?" and he replied as before, "Harry." A member of the party cried, "That's Cheek, now!" One of them, raising the side of a dark lantern, looked within the cell, and seeing the desperate man standing at bay, like a hunted tiger, hastily withdrew, with the cry, "He's got a club."

"Shoot him! shoot him!" yelled several of the mob. "No, no; don't shoot him. Here is a rope—let's hang him," said one who appeared to exercise authority. Said another, "Shoot him, if you can't get him." At this moment Cheek made a movement, and one of the party lunged at him with a crowbar, bruising his side, but inflicting no serious injury. Another drew a navy revolver from his breast pocket, and handing it to one of his comrades, who was flourishing a small pistol, said, "Here, take my revolver! don't shoot him with that little one! It won't kill him." The speaker then thrust his weapon inside the door and fired. The muzzle of the revolver pressed against Cheek's side, but at the moment it was discharged he dashed it aside, and the bullet glanced across his knuckles, inflicting a slight wound. The man who had fired then put his head inside the cell to see if the shot had killed the prisoner, but, as he did so, the bludgeon with which Cheek had armed himself crashed down on his unprotected head, and he dropped to the floor like a felled ox. His revolver dropped from his hand, and was at once seized by the prisoner.

As they saw the senseless form of their comrade, and heard the crashing blow, one of their number cried, "My God! he has killed Snyder, and has got his revolver!" Then these seventy-five courageous men held an impromptu convention to decide as to the next step to be taken. No doubt, as they stood there in the ghastly light of the dark lantern, with one of their number lying senseless and apparently dead at their feet, they experienced the peculiar sensations so graphically described in the narrative of "Bob Acres." After a few moments of irresolute suspense, eyeing the gloomy cell from which came such a deadly check upon their operations, one of the gang, standing securely behind the half-opened door, pointed his revolver around the corner, but before he could fire, the weapon was stricken from his hand by Cheek, and he subsided.

Another consultation was had. Somebody said, "Let us get out of here," and they "got." Picking up the prostrate form of their fallen comrade, they marched out, each one repeating, as he stepped out of the battered entrance way, "One, two, three, out goes he,"—very thankful that, notwithstanding the failure of the enterprise, they had come off with such slight loss in this well-matched encounter between one to seventy-five. Cheek, with his bedpost in one hand and the captured revolver in the other, harassed the rear of the retreating column out into the gaol yard, where he met the sheriff and a party of citizens who had been aroused by an alarm from the gaoler. When the sheriff saw them coming out of the building carrying the body of the victim, he holloaed to them, thinking they were bearing off his prisoner. The only reply he received was, "Fire! fire!" When the regulators reached the street, and saw the commotion caused by their attempt, they broke and ran in every direction. Several of them lost their way in the timber and corn fields, and were seen by farmers residing in the vicinity, at daylight, with scarred faces and soiled garments, not in the least resembling the fearless fellows they imagined themselves a few hours before.

Cheek surrendered himself to the sheriff with the remark, "John, they hain't got me yet," gave up his trusty bedpost and revolver, and went back to his cell. On the way back he said to the sheriff, "John, get me a horse and a *posse*, and I will follow them, and show where every one of them lives before morning. I don't want you to go into danger. I'll go." When asked afterwards why he did not attempt to escape, he replied, "I am not going away from here until I go free, or on my way to the scaffold. This is three times they have tried to mob me, and failed."

ODGER AT A DISCOUNT.

"A SOUTH LONDON WORKING MAN" sends to the *Globe* the following description of a Democratic "meeting" held in South London:—"It having been announced by bills posted about that a meeting was to take place on Thursday night, at which Mr. Odger was to deliver a lecture on 'The House of Lords,' I felt some curiosity to learn for myself what a Democratic meeting in South London was like. So I went to the place at the time appointed. The meeting was announced to take place at the Emigrants'-hall, 24, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, which, I find, is the favourite place of meeting for the Democrats on the Surrey side of the water. When I arrived, which I did about half-past eight (the lecture was to commence at eight), I was directed by a man stationed outside, down the area steps, and found the hall was situated in the basement—in fact, the back kitchen, a room about 14ft. wide by 20ft. long. The furniture consisted of about half-a-dozen short forms, and a desk in one corner of the room. It was lighted by gas, and there was a cheerful fire burning. It being in the centre of Mr. Odger's borough, Southwark, I was certainly surprised at not finding a more numerous gathering. There were only six men present, most of whom were smoking short pipes. I inquired of my neighbour if Mr. Odger had arrived, and was told that he had arrived punctually to time and had left, but was to return in the course of the evening. Two of the men present seemed to be of the navvy class, and were quietly enjoying their pipes one on each side of the fireplace; the others were apparently of the labouring class. As there was nothing going on I left, and on my return in about an hour, I found the gas put out and a man engaged in pulling down the bills which were posted outside, and on inquiring if the meeting was over, was told that the committee had not advertised it sufficiently early, and that no meeting would come off that evening. I think the result speaks for itself, that the popularity of the great democratic shoemaker must be largely on the wane, at all events in Southwark."

THE CHESTERFIELD EARLDOM AND ESTATES.—The *Derby Mercury* gives some particulars respecting the succession to the title and estates of the late Earl of Chesterfield, who died a few days ago from the same malady under which the Prince of Wales is now suffering. It says:—"The late earl (who is survived by his mother and Evelyn, Countess of Carnarvon, his only sister) died unmarried. His lordship, who was the seventh earl, was an only son, as was his father before him, and also his grandfather. Moreover, the fourth earl died childless, and his predecessors, the third and the second earls in the line, each died having only one son surviving. Consequently it is necessary to ascend up to the first earl, created as far back as 1628, to seek an heir to the title. This is found in Mr. George Phillips Stanhope, late of the 29th Regiment, and it is very curious to trace the remoteness which, at one time, might have been asserted as to his chance of ever attaining the reversion. His father was the third son of Mr. Ferdinand Stanhope, and Ferdinand was the grandson of Arthur, who was the fourth son of the first earl. So that, independently of six earls who have intervened, and whose descendants might hardly have been expected to centre in one, the last, there were at least seven more individuals who, had they left male descendants, would have closed the succession to the present inheritor. It is presumed that, with regard to the estates, a succession so frequently interrupted in the straight line would be sure to end by cutting off entails, rendering the property the fee simple of the holders of the title, and in that case it is supposed that the estates will revert to the Countess of Carnarvon, the only sister of the deceased."

Good value for money is desired by all, hence the great demand for Horniman's Pure Tea—uniformly strong, wholesome, and truly cheap. Sold in packets by 2,538 Agents; Chemists, Confectioners, &c. [538

THE GERMAN COINAGE LAW.

THE *Economist* translates from the Berlin *Borzen Zeitung* the full text of the new Coinage Law, as it has finally passed through the Imperial Parliament of Germany. The principal variations from the original measure are the introduction of a 10-mark piece, and the elimination of the pieces of 15 and 30 marks, which were in the project of law, the only coin common to both the project and the measure as finally passed being the 20-mark piece. The new Act appears also to be more explicit than the old in ordering the entire loss through wear and tear to fall on the Imperial Treasury, instead of on the last holder, which is the English rule. The provisions (§8) as to the amount of the old standards, chiefly silver, for which the new coins shall be legal tender, are also new, and will, the *Economist* thinks, be of the utmost practical importance:—"1. An Imperial gold coin will be struck, of which 139½ pieces will contain a pound of fine gold. 2. The tenth part of this gold coin will be named a 'mark,' and be divided into one hundred pfennigs. 3. Besides the Imperial gold coin (§1), there shall also be struck Imperial gold coins of 20 marks, 69¾ pieces of which will contain a pound of fine gold. 4. The mixture of alloy in the coins will be fixed in the proportions of 900 parts gold to 100 parts copper. Accordingly, 125·55 10-mark pieces and 62·775 20-mark pieces will respectively weigh a pound. 5. The Imperial gold coins bear upon the one side the Imperial eagle, with the inscription 'Deutsches Reich,' and a statement of the value in marks, as well as the year of the coinage; on the other side the likeness of the Sovereign Princes or the symbols of sovereignty of the free towns, with a corresponding device and the stamp of the Mint. The diameter of the coin and its quality, and the inscription of the rim, will be fixed by the Imperial Council. 6. Until the passing of a law for the withdrawal of the large silver coins, the coining of the gold coins will proceed at the cost of the Empire for all States of the Confederation at the existing Mints of those States which have declared themselves prepared. The Imperial Chancellor, under the sanction of the Imperial Council, fixes the amounts of gold to be coined, the division of these amounts between the different sorts of coin and the various Mints, and the proper proportionate compensation of the latter for the coinage of each particular description of coin. He supplies the Mints with the gold which is necessary for the coinage allotted to them. 7. The rules for the coinage will be determined by the Imperial Council, and are subject to supervision on behalf of the Empire. These rules will assure the perfect exactness of the coins in contents and weight. As absolute exactness is not obtainable in separate pieces, the difference more or less shall not amount in weight to more than 2½ thousandth part of its weight, and in fineness to more than two thousandth parts. All payments which by existing law are made in silver money of thaler currency, of South German currency, of Lübeck or Hamburg customary currency, or in thalers of the Bremen gold reckoning, may be effected in the Imperial gold coins reckoned at—the 10-mark piece for the value of 3½ thalers, or 5fl. 50kr. of South German currency, 8 marks 5⅓ schillings of the Lübeck and Hamburg currency, 3 1-03 thalers of the Bremen gold reckoning; the 20-mark piece for the value of 6 2-3 thalers, or 11fl. 40kr. South German currency, 16 marks 10 2-3 schillings of Lübeck and Hamburg currency, 6 2-93 thalers of Bremen gold reckoning. 9. Imperial gold coins whose weight is not deficient more than five thousandth parts from the normal weight (§4) (Passirgewicht), and which have not been diminished by violent or illegal injuries, shall be accepted as full value in all payments. Imperial gold coins which do not come up to the before-mentioned pass-weight, and have been taken by the Imperial, State, Provincial, or Communal Treasuries, or by money and credit institutions and banks, are forbidden to be issued again by these treasuries and institutions. The Imperial gold coins, when, in consequence of long circulation and loss of weight, they have so much deteriorated as not to come up to the pass-weight, will be withdrawn for account of the Empire to be melted. Further, these worn gold coins will be taken at all the treasuries of the Empire and the States of the Confederation at the full value for which they were issued. 10. The coinage of other gold coins besides those introduced by this law, as well as of large silver coins, with the exception of memorial medals, is prohibited. 11. The gold coins now current in the States of the Germanic Confederation will be withdrawn for the account and at the cost of the Empire in proportion to the issue of the new coins. (§6.) In like manner the Imperial Chancellor is empowered to order the withdrawal of the large silver money of the States of the Confederation hitherto current, and for this purpose to employ the most available funds in the Imperial Treasury. An account is annually to be given to the Imperial Assembly in its first regular session of the execution of the above regulations. 12. Standards for adjusting and stamping will be established, showing the normal and pass-weights of the coins to be struck, according to the present law, as well as of multiples of these coins. For adjusting and stamping these standards the provisions of Articles 10 and 18 of the Weights and Measures Law of the 17th of August, 1868 (Imperial Statute Book, Section 473), will apply. 13. In the territory of the kingdom of Bavaria, a subdivision of the pfennig into two half-pfennigs can be made if necessary."

AT the meeting of the Leeds Board of Guardians last week it was represented that there is a great deal of small-pox in Leeds, and that the disease is increasing in severity every day. The sheds on the workhouse estate are to be used as a small-pox hospital.

IT is announced that the total extent of the completed railway lines of European Russia is 8,200 miles, and that 1,900 more are at present in course of construction—viz., the Poti-Tiflis, Lazovo-Sevastopol, Romni-Landvarovo, Riga-Bolderaa, Brest-Kiev, and Konstantinoff lines.

THE POOR.

POVERTY is relative. One man may be poor on five hundred a year, while another is passing rich on fifty, and this without any fault or marvel of mismanagement on the part of the individual who actually receives just ten times as much as his neighbour. It is very easy to say that everybody should cut his garment according to his cloth, but supposing a man is a giant, and he has only enough material to dress a dwarf, how is he to achieve the feat of satisfying his own colossal requirements? Society overlooks this circumstance when it proclaims the high moral sentiment of frugality from its stately pulpit, and never so much as condescends to look at the hard and pressing wants of the poor from their own particular stand-point. It is not always those who are in receipt of the smallest incomes who are in the greatest or most disastrous straits. The beggar, who shuffles along the pavement and craves alms from every passer, is often a less needy man than the compassionate being who drops a halfpenny into his open palm. Unfortunately, however, it is not the fashion to believe in any necessity which is not demonstrative and complaining, and so real poverty goes unrelieved, while spurious or incomparably less urgen, need is made the subject of ministrations, well meantt but mischievous and unavailing. It would, probably, be no exaggeration to say that fully half the enormous sum of money expended every year in this country on "the poor" is worse than wasted. It helps to keep up the indigence it affects to relieve. And, what is even more serious, it increases the number of those who live without labour upon the earnings of others. It is useless to disguise, and impossible to deny, the fact that the system of almsgiving has created a special mode of subsistence in this country, and practically reversed the ordinance that man shall live by the sweat of his brow, and that if he will not work he shall not eat. But it is not with this particular phase of the subject that we are at the moment concerned. It is the huge mass of genuine poverty, that goes unrelieved because it is overlooked, for which we desire to bespeak a moment's sympathy.

It is the fundamental error of our national poor-law system that it recognises no poverty but abject want, and reduces every individual it assists to the level of a pauper. Self-help is a perpetual struggle against the force of circumstances, and in the case of a vast class of the population, the lowest and largest stratum at the base of the pyramid, it is in perpetual peril of ending in defeat. What, then, shall we say of the wisdom or foresight of a charity which decrees, first, that it will stand by with folded arms until the bread-winner is utterly vanquished, and next, that when it interposes it will do this in such a mode as must degrade and brand him as a dependent? It is easy to see that true and prudent friendliness would lend its aid before the fatal moment, and for the sake of society, no less than that of the struggling poor, avert the catastrophe and above all avoid the extinction of hope and the enervating and demoralising influence of failure. A system which will not help until the struggling victim is beaten in the battle of life is not a system of charity at all, and can have little claim upon the gratitude and no right to the confidence of the poor whom it has allowed to sink into the depths of pauperism. No doubt in practice it would be impossible for the State to inquire into the actual circumstances and needs of all who throw themselves upon the public rates, or to carry relief into the families of the indigent at the precise moment when a little aid would prove of inestimable and permanent service. But this is precisely where the ministrations of charity might be made to render a priceless service. The serving out of the moneys levied as a tax upon the community to save it from the scandal and danger of allowing the country to be overrun by hungry and idle multitudes, is a comparatively easy matter. The task can never be performed in a manner entirely satisfactory. A large amount of imposition will always remain undetected, and the relief afforded will always have a drawback of abuse and evil consequences. The real promotion of permanent benefit and a genuine reduction of the number of paupers in the country must be sought in the prevention of pauperism, and this can only be effected by the relief and assistance of what may be termed accidental or temporary poverty.

Those who stand in need of such assistance as would save them from pauperism can never be helped directly by the State. If it were possible to provide work for the poor under conditions which would enable the man who is in temporary difficulty to earn an honest wage without the sacrifice of his self-respect, or the rise of that sense of degradation which extinguishes the spirit of self-help, society might hope to see the evil of pauperism cured by the efforts of the Executive; but perhaps such an expectation is Utopian. However that may be, it is abundantly evident that a well-organised system of charity so constituted as to be capable of adapting itself to the actual circumstances and of dealing wisely and generously with the sensibilities of the struggling poor, would be able to give the aid which their condition requires, and which, being received at the time and in the manner most helpful, might, in the large proportion of cases, not only relieve, but save. In the attempt to construct such a system, three points of the first practical moment must on no account be overlooked. The agents of the organisation must conduct their work secretly and unobtrusively. The poor must not be degraded and demoralised by the exposure of their need. If the ministrations of charity are not direct and rigidly silent, they will offer no advantage over the poor-law system, and entirely fail of their object. The assistance given must take, as nearly as possible, the shape of the actual need, and it must be aimed to a permanent improvement of the condition of the objects relieved. There could be no greater mistake than to add another to the list of mendicity societies. Those already in existence do their work well and worthily, but what the country needs is something altogether different. A national organisation should provide for helping the poor to obtain employment, or to emigrate; to train their children in trades; and generally to minister to their personal and social necessities, even more carefully and completely than to afford relief in money or kind. Lastly, such a system of help as would be effectual to rescue those who are in danger of sinking into pauperism must proceed upon an assumption altogether different from that which forms the basis of the Poor Law. Instead of regarding poverty as a crime, and its relief as an irksome duty, to be discharged with deterrent severity, it must conduct its ministrations in a spirit of sympathy and friendliness. Every man must be counted honest until he is proved to be a rogue, and such help as is vouchsafed must come with a good grace and genial spirit, neither humiliating nor patronising, but hope-inspiring and encouraging. The mind and spirit of the poor man is, or ought to be, the object of as much solicitude as his bodily strength or health. It is in the head and heart that the taint of pauperism springs up and establishes itself. To help the poor, we must understand them; and for the sake of society, as well as one of its most numerous and unhappily rapidly increasing classes, they demand our very earnest study and consideration. —*The Globe.*

THE ORIGIN OF THE PRINCE'S ILLNESS.

THE *British Medical Journal* makes the following remarks on the question whence the illness of the Prince originated:—"We stated last week, in detail, a number of circumstances which led to the belief that the local origin of the fever of the Prince was sewer poison imbibed in air or water while at Scarborough; and, added to the fact that a groom, who had not been at Scarborough, was subsequently taken with enteric fever while staying at Sandringham, this pointed to the necessity of a twofold investigation. This we have assisted to institute from information kindly volunteered from various sources, and by direct inquiry. The report which we publish gives details which we may briefly sum up by saying that it shows conclusively that the construction of the Lodge affords in perfection all the conditions fitted to favour the introduction and propagation of the enteric poison. Here was a house, ill built and difficult to ventilate, with thirteen communications and cesspools. In the basement and inside of the house are two cesspools, into which all refuse passes. Turning to the published certificates of the architects and contractors attached to Mr. Dale's letter, we find that they state that 'we have carefully examined the drains and cesspools at the above Lodge, both inside and outside the building, having had them opened for the purpose;' and they describe them as perfect. It will be seen, however, that this statement was somewhat hasty. One of the gentlemen who signed this certificate accompanied our representative through this part of the inquiry, and admitted that the cesspool most likely to be the source of evil—if such be chargeable to the place—was not opened, and had not been opened, so far as any evidence could be obtained, for at least six years; in fact, there was not any available evidence to show at what date it had been opened, if at all, since the reconstruction of the drainage. We say that this was the most important of these most obnoxious appendages to a house—cesspools—because this particular cesspool received the drainage of five out of six closets. It was in the basement immediately below the cabinet of the bedroom occupied by the Prince; and that cabinet, which opened into the Prince's bed-chamber, and with which this cesspool was directly connected by a pipe ten feet long, had no through ventilation. These cesspools—abominable and dangerous superfluities—emptied themselves into sewers which ran by a common outlet downwards towards the sea, and joined the system of common sewers of the south district of Scarborough. As to this sewer system, we may state that it is, at and above the point of junction, subject to great backward pressure from the influence of the tides. This and other circumstances mentioned in our detailed report produced so great a pressure of sewage gas upon the traps, in the absence of ventilation of the sewers, that the most efficient and complete traps—at the best very delusive contrivances—could not resist it. And during the reflux of the tide, this house, with its thirteen sewer openings, and its cesspools beneath, would be subject to frequent inundations of the sewer-gas. We may add that we are informed, from an independent source, that, when the present system of drainage was being constructed at Londesborough Lodge, 'after the workmen had very thoroughly done their work, there was such a back-draught up the drain that it blew the candle out, and would have blown a dozen out if they had been there.' The contractor admitted that at certain times there was great pressure of gas on the traps, and that no traps could withstand it. As to the vital history of the case, we have already mentioned the fact that a large proportion of the party assembled to meet His Royal Highness became affected by diarrhœa, &c.; and we have now to add the highly important and authenticated statement that, besides the illness of his Royal Highness and Lord Chesterfield, two other persons—servants employed at the house at the time—are also suffering with typhoid fever. The one is a temporary servant of the Duke of Beaufort (who is not, as his Grace has well observed, a groom), and the other is a servant of Lord Londesborough. Moreover, it has to be noted that the visitor who occupied the Prince's room just before the Prince was taken with diarrhœa; and we were informed that Lord Chesterfield occupied the same room after the Prince's departure, and this was the room of which the cabinet was immediately connected with the cesspool beneath. There are other circumstances of which we have not lost sight. As to the general state of Scarborough, we may say that while the new town is fairly well sewered, the old town, which is the northern part, is one of the worst drained in England. It is, in the graphic words of one of our medical correspondents at Scarborough, 'simply not drained at all—a mass of middens, and ash-holes, and bad stenches. We want the Health of Towns Act—we have only a pseudo Local Board acting under the Council, which includes many strong economists.' Moreover, the Royal party were shooting for days from Ayton to Willoughby, 'a low black swampy land, five miles of drains. Ayton two years ago was pregnant with typhoid fever; Old Scarborough has this summer never been free from low fever.' They passed several times the disgusting public midden on the Seamer Road, which was very offensive, and was complained of at the time. 'The stench from this midden sometimes infects the air half a mile.' There have been four deaths registered from scarlet fever since September in the West Newton district, close to Sandringham. Last year typhoid fever was prevalent there, and was reported by Mr. Barrett, of Grunston. But there has been none, as we are enabled to state upon his authority, since last year. There is probably no district in this country of which the same could not be said of some of its villages. But the vague and distant suggestions thus engendered are of little force against the overwhelming facts that a large portion of the Scarborough party suffered the symptoms characteristic of mild and immediate action of the sewage poison; that four adults of that party going to different parts of the country were, within the ordinary periods of incubation, seized with this identical fever, which comparatively rarely selects adults of this age; that the house itself has all the worst faults which seem specially, and even peculiarly, to breed and foster the poison, and offers all the conditions requisite for drawing in and diffusing the sewage virus from connected sewers. Add to this the almost certainty that these sewers were at the time charged with the typhoid infection."

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

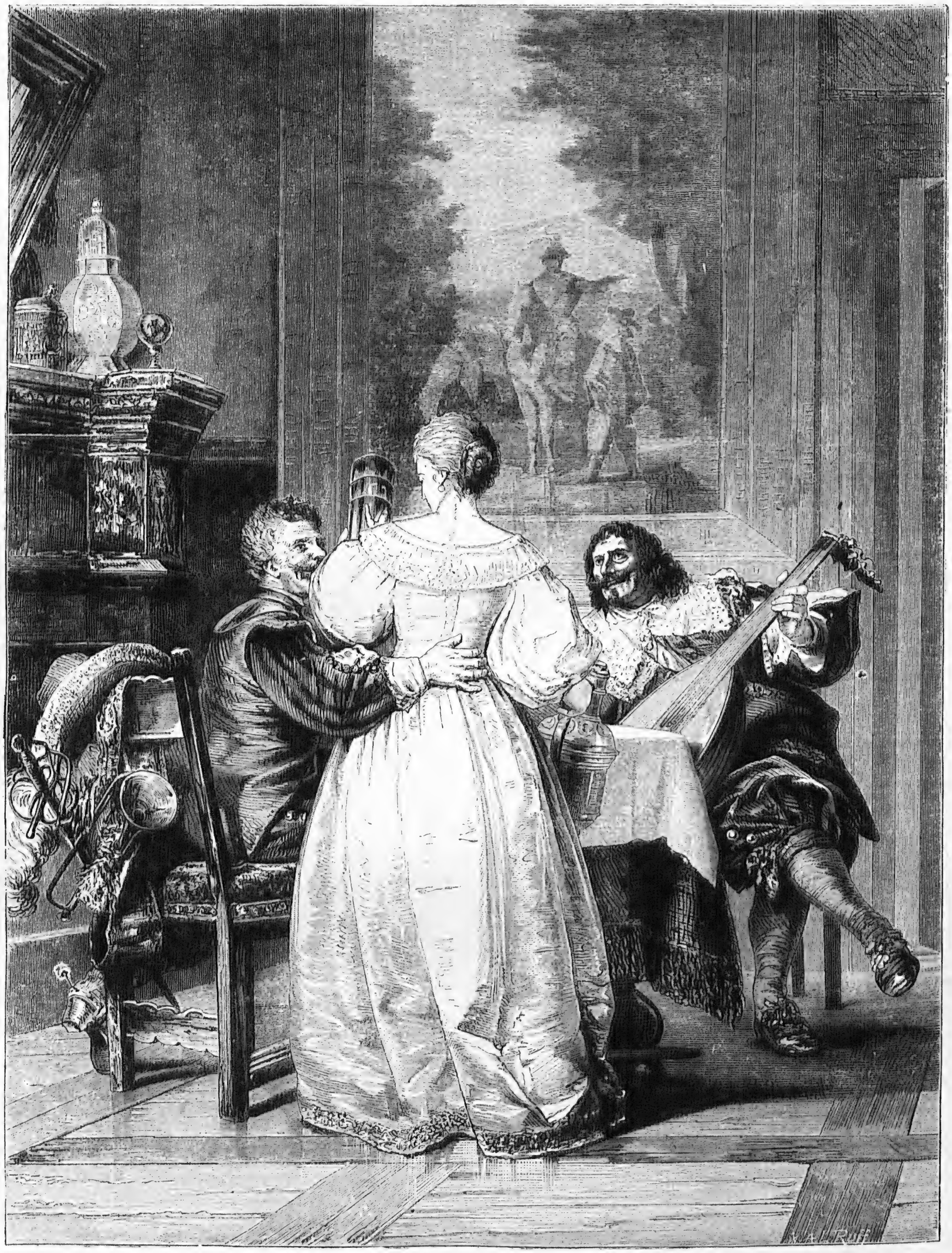
THE R.M.S. *Biafra*, which has arrived in the Mersey from Madeira, Teneriffe, and the West Coast of Africa, brings the following news:—

The natives at Cameroons had laid violent hands on the crew of the consul's boat, in mistake for that belonging to the steamer, and the error is likely to cause them trouble. The bloodmen at Old Calabar had retired from the vicinity of Duke Town and suburbs, the recovery of King Archiboug having done away with the necessity for the wholesale sacrifice of human life usual on the death of a king. The Bonny war is causing much speculation. Consul Hopkins had happily got together the Bonny and Krika and New Calabar Chiefs, and they had signed a reciprocity treaty, subject to Ja Ja's coming back from the Opobo, or opening up to them some of the oil markets at present monopolised by him. The consul has given Ja Ja a few days to consider the matter, but the opinion of those well versed in the matter is that it will result in nothing, and the Bonny trade is for ever ruined. If both parties went to the same markets, there would be constant squabbling, and even if Ja Ja left the Opobo, the natives there would still trade with white men, who would give them extraordinary facilities sooner than go to the expense of removing their property. The cause of Bonny producing so much oil heretofore was simply a spirit of emulation between the rival houses not to let one get richer or more powerful than the other. This stimulating cause no longer exists, add to this that hitherto Bonny men relied altogether on their markets for food. Now they have all turned farmers, and, to use the expression of one of the most intelligent chiefs, "Now that we done find them thing we no let him loose again," meaning, now they have found they can support themselves, they will not risk starvation again by taking their slaves from cultivation and putting them to "pull" oil from the markets. This chief has spoken Bonny's doom as a trading port; for to any one versed in native character it will be obvious that by first removing the cause that had awakened him to action, and then let him see that he can have plenty to eat and a few luxuries without any exertion, the Ethiopian will cheerfully keep 365 Sabbaths every year. The Brass men are slightly down on the missionaries, attributing the small pay to the anger of the "juju," in consequence of their children attending Christian schools; but the merchants interfered to prevent them suffering any indignity. At Benin the Warre chiefs had stopped trade in consequence of the Europeans not acceding to an unjust demand, or rather, an attempt at extortion; but the white men remained firm, and the chiefs gave in after ten days' stoppage. The Government steam yacht *Nellie* had explored the Volta, and to everybody's surprise, they found three fathoms of water over the rapids. Consequently, in the rainy season, the river is navigable into the gold region at the back of Ashantee. Many merchants purposed availing themselves of this new highway to Central Africa next season.

A SLY FOX.—Giving an account of a late "run" with Sir W. W. Wynne's hounds, a correspondent of the *Chester Chronicle* says:—"After about half an hour's delay, the fox was viewed away in the direction of Grafton gorse, and, skirting it, ran up to Tilstone Church, and after a long search in some gardens near to the Rectory, Payne made several unsuccessful casts on the meadows below while Reynard was comfortably ensconced in a feather bed, under the blankets, in the bedroom of a cottage close to the church. The good dame was employed in the garden, and having left the back door open the fox took his way up stairs. In a short time, when she was sitting enjoying her tea, not aware of any one being in the house beside herself, she heard footsteps descend the stairs, and to her astonishment the fox made his appearance, and, passing the tea table, made his exit through the front door."

THE editor of the *Leisure Hour* has embodied his impressions of America in a work entitled "Across the Ferry," which will also be published next week by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS for all who court the gay and festive scenes. Rowland's Macassar Oil, preserver and beautifier of the hair beyond all precedent. Rowland's Kalydor, for imparting a radiant bloom to the complexion and a softness and delicacy to the skin. Rowland's Odonto or Pearl Dentifrice, for giving a pearl-like whiteness to the teeth, and a pleasing fragrance to the breath. Sold by all chemists and perfumers. *⁎* Ask for "Rowland's" articles. [553

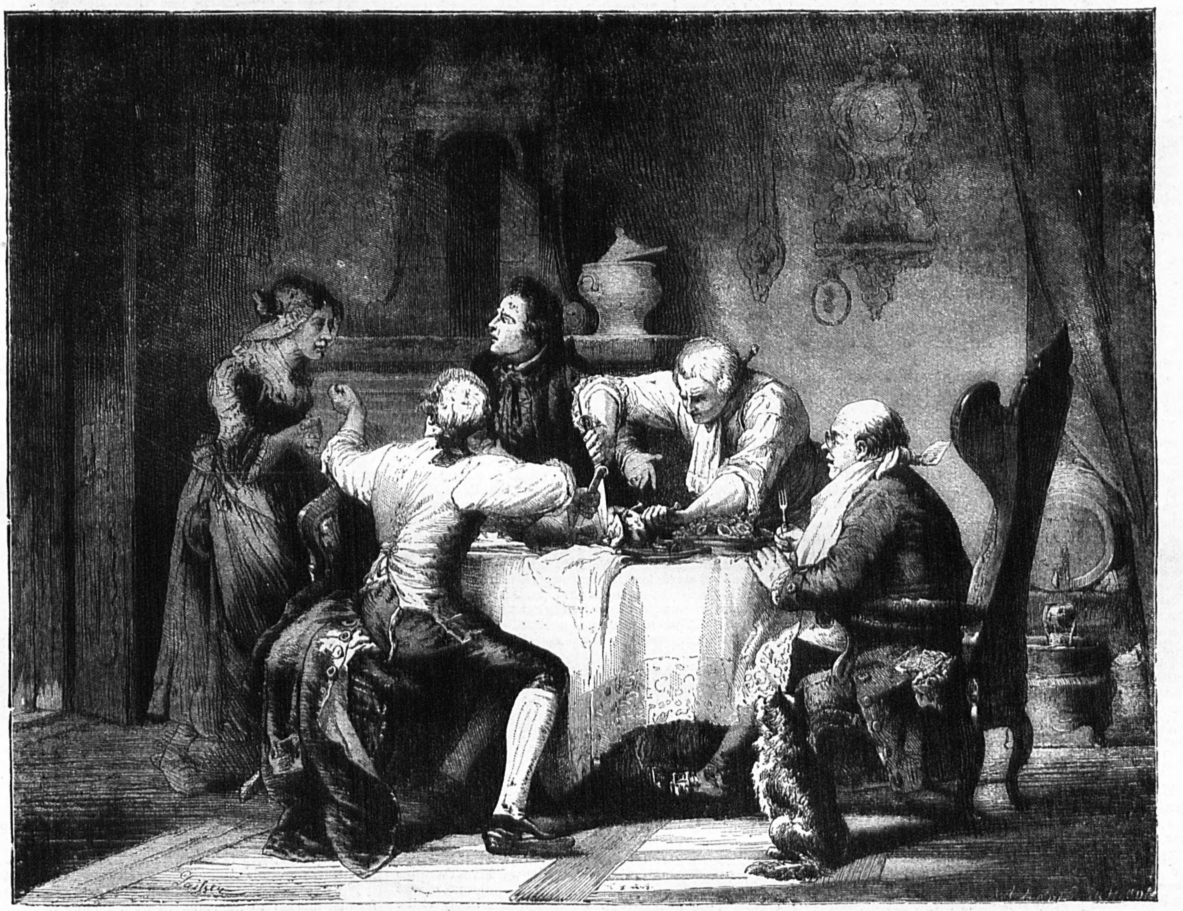


DALLIANCE.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH COMMERCIAL TREATY.

THE following is a full translation of that portion of M. Thiers' Message which relates to the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce:—

"You are all aware that the Government of the Empire concluded with nearly all the Powers whose territory is contiguous to our own, commercial treaties which were binding for ten whole years. It was agreed that after the expiration of ten years those treaties might be either revised or denounced—that is, abolished. The principal of them, that with England, has expired now for nearly a year; that concluded with Belgium reached its term about six months ago; the third, that with Prussia, came to an end with the war. The others, of less importance, with Austria, Switzerland, and Italy, have three or four years to run. But the three most important—because they affect our frontiers most closely—those concluded with England, Belgium, and Prussia, depend only upon your will. They will endure or disappear as you shall decide. I need not recall to you the opposition which was raised to those treaties in France at the period of their conclusion. It was not because absolute prohibition was abolished that they were objected to—for such prohibitions were henceforth condemned, and I who have the honour to address you have never exercised power without having abolished some such—what was objected to in those treaties was that they were concluded without the nation having been consulted; that absolute freedom was introduced without any preparation; that by them all our manufactures were left unprotected all at once; that they accepted insufficient tariffs drawn up by the foreign commissioners, to the exclusion of our own; and that thus they caused to the most important of the national productions, such as iron, tissues of all kinds, agricultural products, and especially the mercantile marine, an immense injury, which will for a long time be felt by Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne, Burgundy, Flanders, Normandy, and Brittany. If, to-day, after the war which has caused the disappearance of all stocks, a real activity has been restored to those various branches of our industry, when once those stocks are replaced the difficulty will reappear under the renewed pressure of foreign competition. Some months before the fall of the late Government, the Corps Législatif itself, perceiving the mistakes of the Empire without daring to speak of them, and attempting unsuccessfully to repair them, directed an inquiry into the treaties of commerce, whose denunciation was loudly called for. It appeared from that inquiry that the mercantile marine was ruined, that the iron manufacture was deeply injured, that cotton, thread, and cloths, and linen thread had suffered greatly, that the mixed tissues of Roubaix were almost destroyed, and that agriculture was suffering in some of its most essential products, that of wool especially. The conclusion generally drawn was that upon all those points some remedy must be applied for a state of things which was becoming worse from day to day, and particularly with respect to the mercantile marine, which the foreign warehouses were causing to disappear. The war which effaced all ruin by those of its own creation, caused this state of things to be forgotten for a moment; but peace having been re-established, it has again presented itself before our eyes, much modified, it is true, by the revival of labour, but modified only for the moment, unfortunately not for always. We could indeed denounce these treaties, subject, be it understood, to your judgment—you who represent the sovereignty—but it was our duty to negotiate in order to prepare for such denunciation. Immense interest in our workshops, in our agricultural districts, in our ports, awaited and still await that determination. However, we have not adopted it. Our motive for abstaining to do so consisted in the spirit of propriety, which should characterise every solid and prudent Government. We would not constitute ourselves the authors of an industrial reaction by substituting a prohibitory system for one of absolute free trade. We propose, while leaving to foreign trade all the freedom compatible with the public welfare, to ensure to our manufacturers, to those who during three-quarters of a century have made the fortune of France, the protection of adequate tariffs in order that they might not perish under the unlimited competition of foreigners, sufficient stimulants to prevent them from falling into a state of indolent security, but not sufficient to reduce them to the position of abandoning production; such is the economical policy which we shall propose to you. With this view, although we had a strong preference for the abrogation of the treaties by which we are bound; because we, above all, aim at a recovery of the freedom of our commercial policy, we thought it would be more prudent to propose to England to agree with us to a simple modification of the existing treaties, a modification which we deemed indispensable under the Empire. Thus, while allowing to continue all the tariffs affecting iron, coal, chemical products, glass, porcelain, woollens, salt and fresh fish—in fact, the greater portion of our exchanges—we only proposed to raise in the modest proportions, in some cases of 4 per cent., in others 5 per cent., the duties upon woven tissues of cotton, linen, and wool. With respect to those of mixed wool, which formerly made the fortune of the Roubaix, but which unhappily does so no longer, we claimed a simple increase of from 12 to 18 per cent. And these modest changes are asked for less to obtain a real increase of the existing tariffs than to ensure their honest application. It happens, in fact, that owing to false declarations at the Custom House, the tariffs are reduced by 3, 4, or even 5 per cent., so that the increase which we proposed would really have had only the effect of ensuring a due application of the tariffs of 1860. Such has been purely and simply the proposition made by us to England. We should prefer, we said to the English Government, the denunciation of the treaty, because, like you, we desire to recover the liberty of our commercial relations, but in a spirit of friendship and cordial relations we consent to remain bound by stipulations which are very inconvenient for us, upon condition that those which are so hurtful as to threaten the existence of our principal manufactures are relaxed. This course of proceeding was so natural that it could not meet with, in the first instance, any but a favourable reception. Thus from the first replies of the English Ministers, whether in London or in Paris, we entertained, if not the certainty, at least a hope that our propositions would be agreed to. Gradually, however, less favourable dispositions became apparent, and nearly a year elapsed without any positive reply, so that the time was passing away to our disadvantage. If, indeed, we had denounced the Treaty of 1860 in the month of February last, we should be on the eve of recovering our freedom, for a year must elapse between the denunciation and the abolition of the treaty. Not having done so, for the reasons I have stated, we have lost nearly ten months, and even now, from the time when we shall have expressed a formal desire to denounce the treaty, we must lose a whole year before we can recover our freedom. Endeavouring at last to obtain a positive reply, we have been met not with calculations of tariffs, but with a reason of principle. We have been told, of course, with all the courtesy which has been exhibited on either side during this negotiation, that England, by acceding to our wish, would appear to abandon her principles and to lend herself to a step backward on the part of the chief manufacturing nation of the Continent. This reason has not convinced us. If the substance of the treaty had been attacked, such an argument might have been urged. But such an objection, when three articles only relating to our textile manufactures are affected, while iron, coal, chemical products, and the greater portion of the articles constituting our exchanges undergo no alteration—such an objection is quite inapplicable to the case. Was there no reason for the stipulation that the treaty should be open to reconsideration at the end of ten years? Was it without any motive that Article 21 of the treaty stipulated that after ten years the tariffs should be revised? Either it must be contended that the treaty is for ever unchangeable—in which case the stipulated reservations are without meaning—or it must be admitted that we are availing ourselves of an indisputable right, and one which we are making use of with moderation, when we ask that the Treaty of 1860 shall be not abandoned but only modified. This, then, is the measure upon which we have definitively agreed (which is comprised in our authority to negotiate, but which would be of no effect should you not approve of it) to denounce the treaty, while consenting still to negotiate for a whole year, so as to date from now, and that the time spent in these further negotiations shall not be lost for us alone, but shall be taken out of the year during which the treaty must remain in force after denunciation. Whatever may occur, abolition or simple modification of the treaty, our political relations with England will be as friendly as in the past, and our tariffs will remain the same as they were, except upon those points which have formed the subject of our demands. We can certainly say that no negotiation has ever been conducted with greater moderation, or in a more peaceful spirit; and no impartial judge in Europe, or even in England, can condemn us."



FOOD AND COOKS.

THE following notice has been circulated throughout South Staffordshire:—"This is to certify that all miners in South Staffordshire give notice to their employers to begin work at seven o'clock and leave work at five o'clock. Signed, Joseph Jevons, Upper Gornal, miner; Richard Porter, Upper Gornal, miner; Isaac Taylor, Summerhill, miner; William Moors, Tipton, miner; Joseph Limeman, Summerhill, miner."

THE Italian financial scheme will, it is said, lead to a slight increase of taxes. The new taxes, however, will only be imposed from the 1st of January 1873. There is to be no issue of Rente.

THE National Council of Switzerland has decided to introduce an article into the Federal Constitution legalising civil marriage.

AN Irishman has just been made Admiral and Commandant of Pola. His name is Barry.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Society of Water-Colour Painters has been established at Liverpool.

The sum of £500 has been voted for the new fittings at the Oxford University Museum.

At the end of this month four of the Paris theatres will be playing Offenbach's operas.

An Order in Council prohibits the importation from France or Belgium of cattle, manure, and hay.

The anniversary of the death of Alexander Dumas has this week been celebrated at Paris and at Puys.

A new eight-page daily paper, called the *Irish Daily Telegraph*, has made its appearance in Cork.

Mr. Sheriff Bennett has come forward as a candidate for the vacancy in the London School Board.

The Carnival season at the Scala of Milan is to open with Verdi's opera of "La Forza del Destino."

The definitive plan for the reconstruction of the Vendôme Column has been sent to the Minister of the Interior.

At the Vaudeville, Paris, Sardou's "Famille Benoiton" has been revived, but the representation passed off coldly.

It is rumoured in Paris that Count Apponyi will succeed Prince Metternich as Austrian ambassador to France.

Major Blume has written a volume entitled, "Operations of the German Armies from the Battle of Sedan to the Close of the War."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says Her Majesty's ship *Briton*, only just commissioned, and on the point of leaving for a foreign station, has broken down.

Mme. Patti, before leaving Moscow for St. Petersburg, gave a concert on behalf of poor students, which produced a sum of 44,800 fr.

Mr. Calderon is painting another of those charming portrait-pictures with which he has delighted the public this year.

The Hon. Peter John Locke King, M.P., has been appointed Vice-Lieutenant of Surrey, and Thomas Ludham Robinson, Esq., a Deputy-Lieutenant.

The sums already spent on the construction of the New Opera at Paris amount to twenty-six millions of francs, six millions and a half being still required to complete it.

The total amount of subscriptions promised towards the United Kingdom Alliance £100,000 fund reaches over £73,000.

"Tricoche and Cacolet," a new vaudeville in five acts, by Messrs. Meilhac and Halévy, has been produced this week at the Palais Royal, Paris.

The bill to amend the Contagious Diseases Acts is drafted, but its provisions are kept a profound secret by the officials at the Home Office.

Several of the Italian deputies intend to propose that the first estimates of the various departments for 1872 shall be voted *en bloc*, together with a budget law consisting only of a single cause.

A Berlin telegram says Captains von Reibnitz and von Waldersee have been appointed to the command of the men-of-war *Elizabeth* and *Frederick Charles*, which are about being commissioned for active service.

An unpublished tale by Nathaniel Hawthorne, which has been discovered among his papers, will appear in the *Atlantic Monthly* next year. The January number of the magazine will contain a new poem by Longfellow.

The *Law Journal* understands that the Lord Chief Justice last week addressed a letter to the Lord Chancellor, asking that a judge might be appointed in the Court of Queen's Bench.

The *Times* contradicts the announcement as to Mr. Quain, Q.C., having been appointed a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, and our contemporary is confirmed by the *Law Journal*.

Mr. Millais is painting another landscape for exhibition. In another and a larger work the painter has endeavoured to combine landscape with figures. The subject of the landscape is taken from the Tay.

The Vestry of St. Bride, City, have resolved to oppose the bill for erecting the new Mint at the bottom of Dorset-street, Salisbury-square, facing the Thames Embankment.

M. Thiers has given permission to M. Renan to renew his lectures at the College of France, which were suspended some years ago. He will resume his history of the Semitic races.

The London Committee for the Maintenance of the Anglo-French Commercial Treaty of 1860 has summoned a conference to discuss the proposed modifications for the 18th inst.

The rectory of Wallsend, Northumberland, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. J. Armstrong, M.A. It is worth £400 a year, and is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Durham.

Preparations, according to the *Athenæum*, are nearly complete for the erection of the bronze statue of the late Lord Holland, the joint work of Messrs. G. F. Watts and Boehm, to stand in the centre of the south side of Holland Park.

The Christmas number of the *Knife and Fork* includes a curious paper on the dish of the day, with the title of "The Plum-puddings of the Masters." It includes the methods of plum-pudding making by the various masters, from Urbain Dubois downwards.

The "Princesse Georges," a new play by Dumas, has been produced at the Gymnase, Paris. The termination is weak; but the drama is wonderfully played, and excites the interest of the spectator to the highest point.

The *Architect* hears that the Old Masters' Exhibition at the Academy will be quite equal to the two preceding ones, many valuable pictures having been already promised. The Queen has lent twelve from the Royal collections.

The Court of Lieutenancy of the City has sanctioned the amalgamation of the 48th Middlesex with the 2nd City of London Rifles, which will be raised to a strength of about 900 men, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Vickers.

Sir Richard Wallace, Bart., has sent £200 towards the £2,000 fund required for the purchase and furnishing of new premises for the Infirmary for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Charles-street, Portman-square.

An official history of the late war is being prepared by the staff of the German army. Mr. Cardwell has arranged to have the work translated into English as soon as it appears. The Government has been in communication with that at Berlin on the subject.

The Colosseum, which has been standing and falling to decay for so many years, has at last found a use—to supply an institution which is much required in England generally, but more especially in London, and that is a complete suite of baths of all kinds.

The Court of Queen's Bench has granted a rule nisi for a mandamus to the Town Council of Sunderland to provide £1,600 out of the rates for the use of the School Board; but the rule will not be argued until next term.

The National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, has received a donation of £1,000 from "W. X.;" and a third contribution of £1,000 has been made to the funds of the Charing-cross Hospital by "W. S. N."

It is reported that negotiations are pending between our Government and those of several European Powers for securing the neutralisation of the Suez Canal. Both Mr. Odo Russell and Sir Henry Elliot have, it is understood, made representations on the subject at Berlin and Constantinople respectively.

The *Athenæum* says the price of the Duke of Ripalda's Raphael, now exhibiting in the National Gallery, has been reduced from £40,000 to £25,000, which is about double the true value of the painting; £12,000 or £13,000 would be an enormous sum for a picture which has been so severely rubbed and unfortunately repaired.

In order to carry out the Bishop of London's recommendation, *John Bull* says it has been resolved at a meeting of City clergy to introduce the surplice in the pulpit whenever practicable, and the Vicars of Paddington, Great Stanmore, and many other parishes have either adopted it or will do so immediately.

The extension of the system of Government inspection from factories to workshops has caused a little rebellion among the Factory Inspectors. They have written to the Home Office complaining that the new duties imposed upon them are derogatory to their dignity, and that their present pay is insufficient for their increased work.

The Duke of Northumberland, says the *Architect*, is now redeeming the land-tax on his property surrounding Northumberland House, with the ultimate intention of erecting a new and superior class of buildings. It is also said that his Grace contemplates a new street from Charing-cross, through Scotland-yard, on to the Embankment.

Sir C. Dilke, on being "interviewed" by a local Republican Club at the Walsall railway station, stated that he had made up his mind not to deliver any more public lectures till after he had addressed his constituents, as he found the question in reference to Royalty, which should be a people's question, was being made a personal one, and he had no wish that it should be so.

The *Broad Arrow* understands that a committee is now forming to renew Captain Sherard Osborn's scheme for the exploration of the Arctic regions by Smith Sound, and further sledge operations. The arguments for Captain Sherard Osborn's route are strengthened by the experience of recent German Arctic explorers, including Nordenskiold and Koldenay.

The weekly circular of Jay Cooke, McCulloch, and Co., with mail dates November 21st, and cable prices December 7th, says:—"Gold remains weak, although the market is still so oversold as to enable lenders to command high rates on loans. The weakness is due perhaps mainly to an expectation that, at the beginning of next month, the redemption of Five-Twenties will bring a considerable amount of gold out of the Treasury, an anticipation which appears likely to be disappointed."

Earl Fortescue has forwarded a contribution of £20 to the Educational Union, with a letter, in which he says he is very sorry to see old and consistent supporters of Christian education generally allowing themselves to be entrapped by the mere word "unsectarian," though used in the new sense of secular, or hurried by their strong feelings against the Established Church into joining the Education League.

The *Naval and Military Gazette* believes Mr. Cardwell contemplates absorbing by degrees the junior majors of every infantry battalion. It is also reported that regiments will be much manœuvred by half battalions, the colonel taking command of the one, and the major of the other. It is the intention of Mr. Cardwell to bring into regiments all the half-pay and reduced officers with as little delay as possible.

A perpetual treaty has just been concluded between the British and Dutch Governments with respect to British subjects in Sumatra. By the first article England recognises the sovereignty of Holland over the whole island, and by the second English subjects are bound to submit to existing laws. A protocol added to the treaty gives facilities for registering free labourers on the coast of Guinea. The cession of the coast of Guinea to England is still under consideration. The inhabitants of another Dutch colony, Surinam, complain that they suffer considerably by the uncertainty which has so long hung over their future. They ask that it may be decided at once if they are to remain Dutch or become British subjects.

It was announced at a meeting of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution the other night, that during the current year £16,836 had been expended by the society in the formation of new lifeboat stations, and in the maintenance of its large life-saving fleet, now numbering 231 boats. In the same period the institution had contributed by its lifeboats and other means to the saving of 729 lives from various wrecks, besides rescuing twenty vessels from destruction.

A St. Petersburg letter says orders have recently been issued that none but native Russians, or naturalised Russian subjects, shall be employed upon Polish and Livonian railways. The aim of this measure is not hard to divine. In the event of a war between Russia and the Germanic Powers, any German subjects who might happen to be employed on the western railways would undoubtedly desert *en masse* to their own people, possibly even destroying the lines before their departure.

The *Law Times* understands that at a recent meeting of the committee appointed by the Common Council of the Corporation to consider the question of Admiralty jurisdiction as administered in the City of London Court, terms were offered to the learned judge of that court with a view to his continuing to exercise that jurisdiction, but that these terms were rejected. As a consequence efforts will be made to transfer the jurisdiction to some other court.

The *Swiss Times* says the inhabitants of the Jura confidently entertain the hope that, ere long, an international railway commencing at Besançon will put in communication with one another the industrial populations of all the principal centres of horology, viz., Bienne St. Immer, Chaux-de-fonds, Locle, and Besançon. Such a line, it is thought, will be designated "Le Chemin de Fer de l'Industrie horlogère." In France it is thought that it will be one of the best arteries conducting to the St. Gothard.

A deputation, introduced by Mr. C. Reed, M.P., on Saturday waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge the claims of the population in the neighbourhood of Victoria Park to about thirty-five acres of land which are still unbuilt upon. The right hon. gentleman, however, while recognising the value of adding the land to the park, regretted that, as representing the ratepayers generally, he was unable to consent to a course which would benefit the inhabitants of one district in London at the expense of the nation.

The President of the Oxford University Boat Club has received the official acceptance of the "dark blue" challenge, and the race may be expected to come off at the latter end of March, probably on Saturday, March 23, being the last day of Hilary or Lent Term at Oxford. Mr. R. W. Lesley, the new President of the Oxford University Boat Club, who last year rowed stroke for the unsuccessful Oxford crew, will, it is said, again wield the stroke oar for Oxford; while Mr. J. H. D. Goldie, who was successful for Cambridge two years running, will, it is understood, again have the honour of rowing stroke to the "light blue" crew.

A memorial has been addressed to Mr. Gladstone by resident members of the University of Cambridge, in which it is urged that the appointment of a commission merely to inquire into the funds of such institutions would answer no effectual purpose. It is, therefore, suggested that a commission should at once be constituted, with full power to take such measures as may be necessary for the appointment of an executive body to act in conjunction with the University and the several colleges in framing statutes for those bodies. The ninety-four names appended to the memorial include fifteen out of the twenty-seven college tutors; all the tutors of Trinity and St. John's, besides the censor of non-collegiate students, Mr. Somerset. The signatures include a majority of those who are conducting the educational work of the colleges—the tutors, assistant tutors, and lecturers. The list contains the names of Mr. Todhunter, Mr. Rout, and Mr. Besant; Mr. Vernon Harcourt and Mr. Fawcett; Professors Maurice and Seeley, Mr. W. G. Clark, Vice-Master of Trinity, with Messrs. Munro, Burn, and King, Dr. Parkinson and Mr. Holmes.

A letter from Berne states that Count de Girgenti, brother of the ex-King of Naples, who recently committed suicide, has been buried at Lucerne with much pomp. Two of his brothers were present at the funeral.

His Highness Aga Khan has given 30,000 rupees for distribution to the sufferers from famine in Persia. During the last four months a large number of Persians, arriving destitute in Bombay, have been sheltered and fed by his highness; and at the present time there are about 200 persons maintained and clothed at his expense.

Mr. Edgar, Butt Lighthouse, Island of Lewes, writes to Sir James Matheson, November 23, 1869:—"Mrs. Edgar cannot express her thanks to Lady Matheson for sending the Neuraline; it proved the most successful lotion she has ever applied. The relief experienced is almost instantaneous." Neuraline, applied externally, cures Tic Doloreux, Neuralgia, Toothache, Sciatica, Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, Gout, and all nerve pains. Prepared by Leath and Ross, Homœopathic Chemists, 5, St. Paul's Churchyard, and 9, Vere-street, W.; and sold by all patent medicine vendors, in bottles, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. each. [448

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Chap. XXIII.—While I jingled my Glass with the Lawyer's in the City.
" XXIV.—"And the stately Ships go on, to their Haven under the Hill."
" XXV.—"But Oh! for the Touch of a vanished Hand; and the sound of a Voice that is still."

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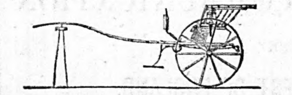

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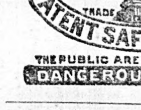

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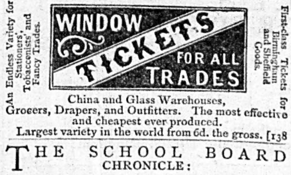

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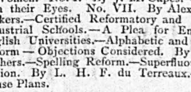

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The Committee have for many years felt the want of an Asylum, in connection with this School, for the reception and maintenance of those who, after completing their pupilage, may be destitute of a home, or of parental support, or aged, or infirm, but still able and willing (so long as age and infirmity will permit) to continue their industrial, and, to some degree, productive work.

When the Committee applied to Parliament for an Act to enable them to remove the School into the country, for the sake of a healthier atmosphere and a larger space, for extending the usefulness of the Charity, they asked for and obtained the power to add an Asylum for the reception and maintenance of Adult Blind Persons.

Parliament annexed to the power the condition that the cost of any buildings to be erected for the purpose, as well as the expense of and incident to the management and maintenance of such persons, be defrayed out of any funds which may be specially given or subscribed for that object, and not out of the ordinary funds of the Corporation.

Therefore the Committee have no fund whatsoever applicable to this desirable object; and the addition of an Asylum must depend, for its erection and maintenance, upon the approval and support of the friends of the Blind.

The power conferred by the Act of Parliament has not limited the benefit of an Asylum to those blind persons who have been connected with the School. It embraces the Blind in general, among whom there are many more aged, more destitute, more infirm, and in so far as they have not experienced and cannot experience the benefits of the School, are more necessitous.

It was to prepare for this charitable work that the Committee obtained the requisite legal power to add an Asylum to their intended new Schools (on any land to be purchased for such Schools).

And now, having contracted for the purchase of the land, they make this APPEAL to the public for means to enable them to perform that charitable work.

The extent of the Asylum addition must necessarily be proportionate to the fund to be subscribed, but the Committee are hopeful that the response to their appeal will enable them to initiate a building sufficient to contain about fifty inmates (more or less, exclusive of attendants), and they will endeavour to make their designs capable of co-extension with future increased means and requirements.

The Committee feel that the object of this Appeal constitutes its sufficient recommendation.

The persons to be benefited are the blind (the homeless, the aged, and the indigent blind), those who are incapable of earning a livelihood.

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27,554 3 4	Nett Fire Premiums	45,243 16 10
13,111 11 1	Losses	22,766 17 7
7,555 10 6	Balance of Profit and Lass Account	12,336 11 2
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